

PINK

THE 65p

Home of Hampshire sport Saturday, January 28, 2017

Liverpool win Puel's redemption

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SAINTS 0
ARSENAL 5



OUTGUNNED

Saints blasted out of FA Cup

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Howe finds no value in transfer window

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SAINTS

Wolves at Liverpool's door

IN THE space of four weeks Liverpool have gone from title contenders and being in two cup competitions, one of which they were 180 minutes from Wembley, to being left to fight for Champions League qualification with a slender two-point cushion over fifth-placed Manchester City.

Whatever Klopp's complaints, however, the manager must shoulder some of the responsibility for the defeat against a team 18th in the division below after making nine changes from midweek with only Karius and forward Roberto Firmino surviving.

Wolves themselves made seven changes including 20-year-old Harry Burgoyne, who with just two league appearances behind him was the replacement for the suspended Carl Ikeme, but he did not have a save to make until substitute Philippe Coutinho's tame shot on the hour.

Klopp will point to the hectic schedule his team have faced - Tuesday's visit of Premier League leaders Chelsea will be their 10th match in 32 days - and yet more officiating decisions going against them but there can be no excuses for the way his team have fallen away so badly.

In the first minute Wolves won a free-kick wide on the right. Helder Costa managed to steal 10 yards to make a more acute angle so when he swung in his cross Karius was caught in two minds whether to come for it or not.

The German opted for the latter and Stearman, who started in an offside position, took advantage to head home his first goal in English football since April 21, 2014.

Costa almost silenced Anfield with a 70-yard unopposed run only to slice a shot wide under pressure from 17-year-old Ben Woodburn who had tracked him all the way.

But the warning was not heeded and when Firmino gave away possession on the edge of Wolves' area three minutes before half-time the ball was quickly switched to Costa wide right who, after Alberto Moreno completely missed his tackle, threaded through a pass for Weimann to score just a matter of seconds later.

Georginio Wijnaldum had a justifiable penalty shout turned down after a challenge from Weimann but Liverpool ended the half with 79 per cent possession and not a shot on target to show for it.

Klopp sent on Coutinho for right-back Connor Randall, on his first appearance of the season, with a switch to a three-man defence and when Firmino's header was deflected wide by team-mate Ragnar Klavan from Woodburn's free-kick it appeared an improvement was just around the corner.

The introduction of Daniel Sturridge and Emre Can made little difference, although Liverpool did get one back late on when Origi volleyed home from close range.

Wolves would have scored a third through substitute Jon Dadi Bodvarsson had it not been for Karius' point-blank save and they held on for a shock win after Burgoyne denied Origi on the line.

SAINTS 0 ARSENAL 5



Danny Welbeck hits a shot towards goal

Adam Leitch



SAINTS tasted the bitter side of cup football as former academy product Theo Walcott bagged a hat-trick as Arsenal handed out a 5-0 thrashing to dump Saints out of the FA Cup just three days after Claude Puel's men beat Liverpool to reach Wembley.

Puel made ten changes to the side that won at Anfield to reach the League Cup showpiece, but a weakened Arsenal side were comfortably better and handed Saints a thrashing in a one-sided game at St Mary's.

Former Saints star Theo Walcott scored three goals in the fourth round tie against his old club, with Danny Welbeck bagging a brace.

Arsenal put Saints under pressure in the opening stages and threatened after just three minutes.

A quick counter attack saw Theo Walcott get to the right by-line and cut back to Jeff Reine-Adelaide, but his shot from just inside the area was charged down

TEAM NEWS

SAINTS: Lewis, Martina, Stephens, Gardos, McQueen, Reed, Hojbjerg, Clasie, Sims, Isgrove, Long. Subs: Taylor, Yoshida, Bertrand, Romeu, Davis, Tadic, Redmond.

ARSENAL: Ospina, Bellerin, Mustafi, Holding, Gibbs, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Maitland-Niles, Walcott, Reine-Adelaide, Lucas, Welbeck. Subs: Martinez, Jenkinson, Mertesacker, Gabriel, Monreal, Iwobi, Alexis.

Claude Puel made ten changes from the side that booked Saints a place at Wembley with a win at Anfield for the

visit of Arsenal in the FA Cup.

Young centre half Jack Stephens was the sole survivor from the EFL Cup side.

Goalscorer Shane Long came back into the team, while there was a first start for almost two years for Florin Gardos.

Virgil van Dijk, Jay Rodriguez, Charlie Austin, Jake Hesketh, Matt Targett, Alex McCarthy, Jeremy Pied and James Ward-Prowse were all sidelined by injury.

by Jack Stephens.

Arsenal were knocking on the door again moments later as Lucas Perez flashed a cross into the six yard box but nobody was able to get on the end of it.

Saints were really struggling to cope with the Gunners, were giving the ball away cheaply, and were relieved to see Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's shot from 20 yards whistle wide of the post.

The inevitable happened on 15 minutes as Arsenal got the goal they had been threatening since

the off.

Saints had dropped so deep but were still allowing space in behind to runners, and when Ainsley Maitland-Niles' ball was flicked round the corner by Perez, it played Welbeck in on goal.

He produced an excellent chipped finish to lob the advancing Harry Lewis, with the ball clipping the underside of the bar on its way into the net.

It got even worse as Saints contributed to their own downfall as Welbeck scored again on 22 min-



utes.

The goal came from a high ball forward from inside his own half by right back Hector Bellerin.

Welbeck was lurking on the shoulder of the last man, in this case Stephens, and, despite an average first touch as he brought the ball down, goalkeeper Lewis had got lost in a no man's land in the penalty area and the Ar-

PINK

SAINTS

senal man was able to finish low through his legs.

Saints finally created something a couple of minutes later as David Ospina ended up on the ground outside his area trying to chase down Shane Long, but when the ball dropped in the area to Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg he volleyed over the bar.

Long managed to work Ospina moments later as he shot from a difficult angle after intercepting Cuco Martina's curling ball forward, but the Gunners keeper divered to turn it away.

Arsenal should have had a third on 29 minutes when Shkodran Mustafi was able to meet a right wing free kick inside the six yard box but he flicked his header wide of the far post.

Hojbjerg tried his luck from a free kick just outside the box but could only curl his effort round the outside of the wall and into the side netting.

Saints were staring a hammering square in the face when Arsenal scored again on 35 minutes.

Once more they played a large part in their own demise with Stephens slamming a ball into Hojbjerg to hand possession to Arsenal.

They moved quickly with Perez giving Welbeck the chance to play in a cross from the left by-line.

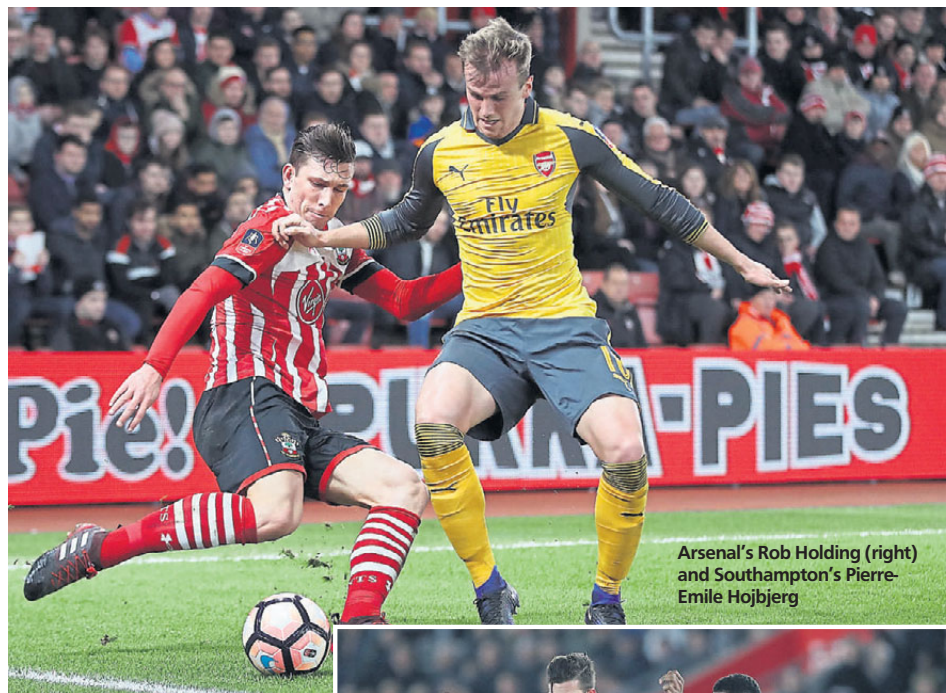
Sam McQueen stood still in the six yard box ready to clear but Theo Walcott nipped in in front of him to have the simple task of finishing for 3-0.

Josh Sims had a chance to try and pull one back in first half stoppage time after Martina robbed Kieran Gibbs of the ball and cut it back, but a heavy first touch allowed the ball to get away from him.

Arsenal continued on the front foot at the start of the second period, and Bellerin might have done better than pick out Lewis when found in the area eight minutes after the restart.

Saints made a double change in a last bid to try and find a goal that would work them back into the game with Dusan Tadic and Nathan Redmond replacing Lloyd Isgrove and Long on 64 minutes.

Arsenal responded by bringing on Alexis Sanchez for Welbeck in



Arsenal's Rob Holding (right) and Southampton's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg

attack.

Jordy Clasie tried to make something happen with a shot from 25 yards but it sailed well over the bar.

However, Arsenal put the tie beyond any doubt as they scored again on 69 minutes.

It was another fast flowing move as Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain intercepted and burst forward. He played it to Sanchez on the overlap, and the sub looked up from the right by-line and cut back to Walcott, who was in space having held his run, despite there being plenty of Saints players in the box.

He produced a first time right footed finish which curled into the far corner.

Arsenal threw on more firepower with Alex Iwobi coming on for Reine-Adelaide.

In truth, Arsenal lost some of their impetus in the closing stages knowing that they had already done more than enough to book their place in the fifth round, but



Southampton's Armani Little (right) and Southampton's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg battle for the ball

that didn't stop them from adding another goal with five minutes remaining.

It was another quick break from Arsenal with Sanchez holding the ball up and waiting for the run of Walcott to his right.

He slipped the ball into the former Saints academy product who coolly slotted a low finish past Lewis to make it 5-0.

Hammers grab Snod

WEST Ham have completed the signing of Scotland forward Robert Snodgrass in a £10.2million deal from Hull City.

The 29-year-old has signed a three-and-a-half-year contract to become West Ham's second January capture, after Saints defender Jose Fonte.

Boss Slaven Bilic hopes a concerted recruitment drive can propel the Hammers up the Premier League table from 10th spot, with star asset Dimitri Payet still angling for a move.

Snodgrass could now make his West Ham debut in Wednesday's home Premier League clash with Manchester City - before a trip to St Mary's next Saturday.

"I'm delighted because this is a massive club with great tradition," said Snodgrass.

"This is the sort of club which speaks for itself, the fans who come here and support week-in week-out and moving to and selling out this new stadium is terrific and I want to be part of it.

"The owners and the manager are trying to build something here and I just can't wait to get started. I feel this is a club with real ambition, with the new stadium, great players and a manager of his calibre at Premier League level.

"The lads will say we want to be up in the top half of the table and repeat last year, so it's up to us.

"The club has had a few good weeks with results and if I can add to that, great. I'm just looking forward to meeting my new team-mates and getting started."

While France playmaker Payet edges towards a potential West Ham exit, boss Bilic and the club's board continue to chase new recruits.

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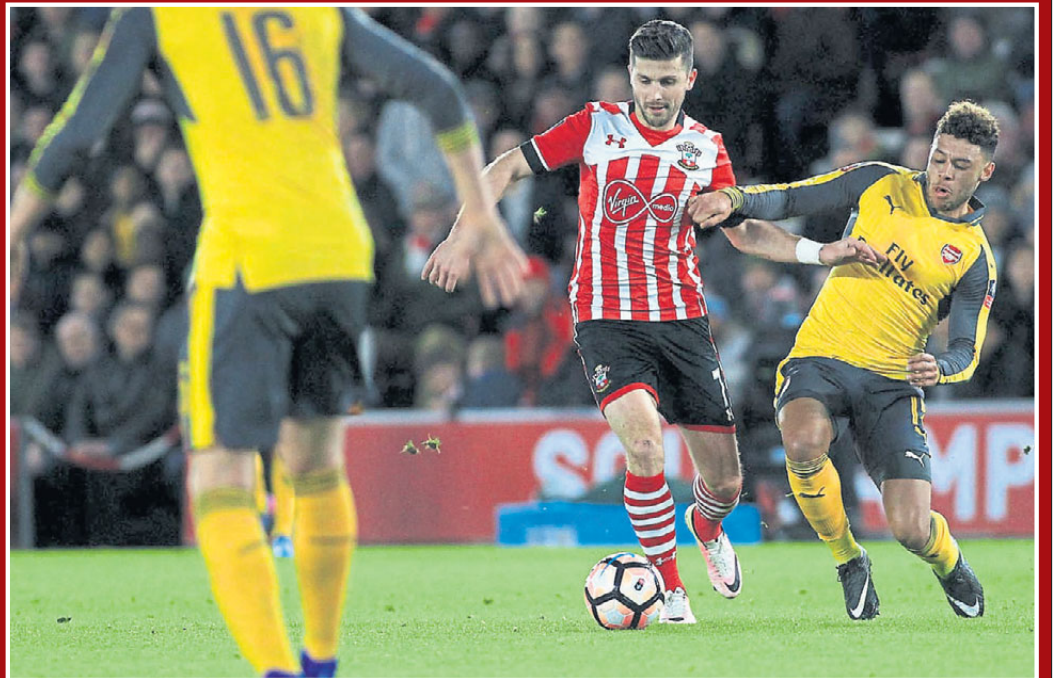
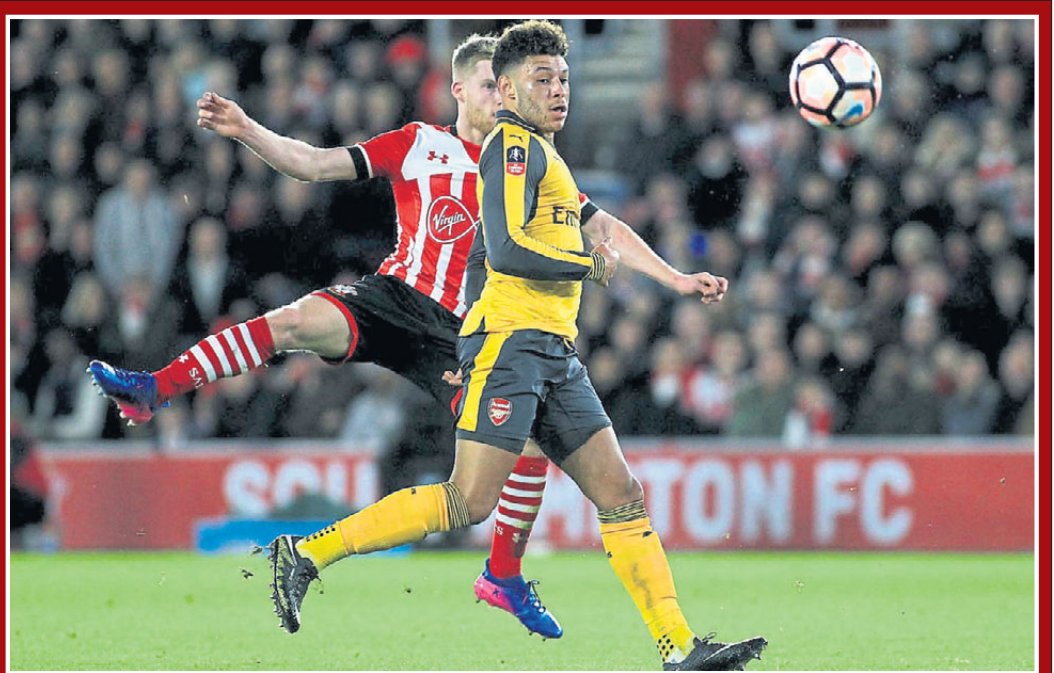
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PREMIER LEAGUE

PREMIER LEAGUE
INS AND OUTS
JANUARY 2017

ARSENAL

In: Cohen Bramall (Hednesford Town) £40,000
Out: Jon Toral (Glasgow Rangers) loan

BOURNEMOUTH

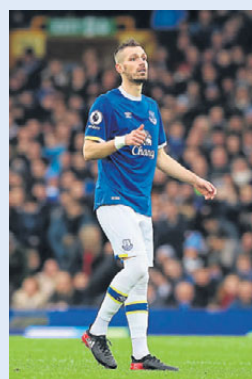
Out: Brandon Goodship (Yeovil) Free, Jordan Lee (Torquay) loan, Emerson Hyndman (Glasgow Rangers) Loan

BURNLEY

In: Joey Barton (Unattached)

CHELSEA

Out: Patrick Bamford (Middlesbrough) £5.5m, Charlie Colkett (Swindon) loan, Fankaty Dabo (Swindon) loan, Islam Feruz (Swindon) loan, Izzy Brown (Huddersfield) Loan, John Mikel



Morgan Schneiderlin.

Obi (Tianjin TEDA)
Undisclosed

CRYSTAL PALACE

In: Jeffrey Schlupp (Leicester) £12m
Out: Keshi Anderson (Northampton) loan, Freddie Ladapo (Shrewsbury) loan

EVERTON

In: Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United) £20m, Ademola Lookman (Charlton) £11m
Out: Antony Evans (Morecambe) loan, Gethin Jones (Barnsley) loan, Callum Connolly (Wigan) loan, Tom Cleverley (Watford) loan, Conor Grant (Doncaster) loan, Oumar Niasse (Hull) loan, Nathan Holland (West Ham) Undisclosed, Gerard Deulofeu (AC Milan) Loan

HULL CITY

In: Evandro (Porto)
Undisclosed

Value thin on the ground for Howe

By Simon Carter



EDDIE Howe believes value for money is thin on the ground in the January transfer window and admits signing British players "comes with a premium".

Although linked with the likes of Chelsea duo John Terry and Asmir Begovic, as well as Norwich's Robbie Brady, Howe - like his south coast counterpart Claude Puel - is yet to recruit this month.

In fact, the Cherries boss has not guaranteed there will be incomings at Vitality Stadium ahead of deadline day next Tuesday.

Crystal Palace manager Sam Allardyce recently bemoaned the "vast cost" of British players and eyebrows were raised last week when Leicester's Jeff Schlupp joined Palace for £12m - the same price Manchester United signed Cristiano Ronaldo for.

In addition, Hull's Jake Livermore joined West Brom for £10million, while Saido Berahino left the Baggies for Stoke for £12m and Patrick Bamford exited Chelsea for Middlesbrough for a fee which reportedly could rise to £10m.

Reflecting generally on the January window, Howe said: "It's always been tough to buy British. I think the pool of players of all nationalities in this transfer window is as small as it's ever been."

"No one really wants to lose any players, everyone wants to keep their squad intact and I'm the same."

"That then means fees are inflated and sometimes you are not sure the quality is better than you already have, so it's a tough window to recruit in."

"The summer window is much better, I think you get more value for money and a bigger choice of players, but every club is in the same position."

Questioned on why fees for British players appeared inflated compared to those of their foreign counterparts, Howe said: "The knowledge you can play the level comes with a premium."

"If a player is doing well or excelling in the Championship, there is a good chance he would do well in the Premier League and that comes with a premium."

"If you are taking a player from France or wherever, there is still that doubt - can he adapt to the rigours of the Premier League?



AFC Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe.

And with that doubt comes a lower fee."

Howe signed a mixture of British and foreign players last summer and says there is no hard and fast answer as to which is the better option, insisting it comes down to the individual concerned.

He added: "There's no right or wrong. It depends on the individual player. I'm open to signing any nationality of player if I feel he could add to the squad."

"There are benefits from both angles. From the British perspective they will have a better understanding of English football from

their upbringing. If they have been in and around it they will know the physicality and pace of the league."

"There won't be a period where you will have to make them adapt to that, maybe adapt to your philosophy rather than the style of football. That's probably the biggest advantage."

Allardyce certainly appears right to complain about the "vast cost" of signing British players in the January window.

After all, he paid £12m for a midfielder, Schlupp, who had only appeared in four league games for

Leicester this season.

He wasn't a regular starter during the Foxes' title-winning season either - making 14 starts in 2015/16, plus another 10 off the bench.

At least Livermore has been a top flight regular for Hull, who signed him for £8m from Tottenham in 2014 and have now made only a £2m profit on the player.

Elsewhere, West Ham paid £8m for a 33-year-old defender, Saints skipper Jose Fonte.

That is more than the likes of Diego Maradona and Ruud Gullit commanded in the 1980s heydays when they moved for what were then world transfer record fees.

As recently as 1990, the record world transfer fee was £8m - when Roberto Baggio went from Fiorentina to Juventus.

Over a quarter of a century on, English clubs are now paying that sort of money for a veteran central defender.

Mind-boggling, really.

Ronald Koeman's Everton remain the highest spenders so far in the January transfer window - splashing out £20m on ex-Saint Morgan Schneiderlin and £11m on Charlton striker Ademola Lookman.

Lookman, 19, hadn't exactly been a prolific scorer in League 1 with the Addicks - scoring just seven times in 25 appearances.

But he enjoyed a memorable Toffees debut, coming on as an 89th minute sub at Goodison Park with his new club 3-0 up against Manchester City - and netting within a minute.

He made a further sub appearance in last weekend's 1-0 win at Crystal Palace.

Schneiderlin, too, came off the bench in both of those victories.

Swansea's two new signings have also made a winning Premier League start.

New boss Paul Clement splashed out over £9m to bring in Tottenham midfielder Tom Carroll and Norwich's Swedish international full back Martin Olsson.

Both players made their Swans debut in the astonishing 3-2 victory at Anfield.

It was only Carroll's fourth appearance of 2016/17, with his last Tottenham outing also coming at Anfield in a League Cup tie in October.

Olsson's final game for Norwich was in the FA Cup third round tie against Saints at Carrow Road.

He is expected to resume rivalries with Saints next Tuesday when he makes his home debut for the Swans.

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Gange stars in 12-goal thriller

WILL Gange was the four goal star as Itchen romped to a comprehensive 8-4 victory over Richard Tauntons in the Hampshire Colleges Pete Munro cup semi-final derby at Middle Road.

The converted centre back relishing his new role as an attacking midfielder demonstrated some clinical finishing in scoring his first goals of the season, writes Dick Batchelor.

He opened the scoring for Itchen on 15 minutes converting a cross from the influential James Smith.

Harvey Craig soon equalised for RTC breaking clear to sweep home.

Even without Jean-Luc Ramdin, who was at Lilleshall preparing for today's (SAT) England Colleges Under-18 international against Australia, Itchen reasserted their command of the tie as Nick Yeomans (2) and Gange put the hosts 4-1 ahead.

Just before the interval Efy Kazadi converted a

penalty when Ben Huckin was fouled, reducing the arrears and when Craig produced an exquisite lob early in the second half to make the score 4-3 it looked as though RTC might stage a revival.

Hopes were immediately extinguished, however, as James Smith volleyed home a fifth for Itchen.

Two more tidy finishes from Gange and a final goal from Ben Tiffin (laid on by Smith) took the game well beyond RTC, who had the final say late on with a consolation scored by Keny Gatera.

Itchen's long awaited appearance in a Peter Munro final in April will be against either cup holders Farnborough or Colleges League champions Peter Symonds, whose delayed semi-final is on Friday week, February 10.

Itchen will have at least two teams in the county finals as their 2nd XI trimmed Farnborough 2-1 with Joel Ghosh and Josh Goodeum on target.



Will Gange, Itchen

From facing page

HULL CITY

In: Markus Henriksen (AZ Alkmaar) undisclosed, Oumar Niasse (Everton) loan, Omar Elabdellaoui (Olympiakos) loan, Lazar Markovic (Liverpool) loan
Out: Jake Livermore (West Brom) £10m

LEICESTER CITY



Wilfred Ndidi, left, in action against Pierre Hojbjerg last Sunday.

In: Wilfred Ndidi (Genk) £15m
Out: Jeffrey Schlupp (Crystal Palace) £12m, Matty James (Barnsley) loan, Luis Hernandez (Malaga) Undisclosed

LIVERPOOL

Out: Joe Maguire (Fleetwood) undisclosed, Tiago Ilori (Reading) undisclosed, Pedro Chirivella (Go Ahead Eagles) loan, Lazar Markovic (Hull) loan

MANCHESTER CITY

Out: Ian Lawlor (Doncaster) Undisclosed, George Glendon (Fleetwood) undisclosed

MAN UNITED

Out: Morgan Schneiderlin (Everton) £20m, Joe Riley (Sheffield United) loan, Sam Johnstone (Aston Villa) loan, Memphis Depay (Lyon) £16m rising to £21.7m.

MIDDLESBROUGH

In: Patrick Bamford (Chelsea) £5.5m, Rudy Gestede (Aston Villa) undisclosed

Out: Emilio Nsue (Birmingham) Undisclosed, David Nugent (Derby) undisclosed, Julien de Sart (Derby) loan, Tomas Mejias (Rayo Vallecano) loan, Jonny Burn (Bristol Rovers) Undisclosed, Joe Fryer (Hartlepool) loan

Continued on page 8

Fourth win for Hants colleges

THE Hampshire Colleges representative team will go into next Friday's English Schools FA Under-18 County Cup semi-final against Essex at Alton full of confidence after celebrating a fourth successive win.

They repeated their recent ESFA Cup win by twice coming from behind to beat Kent 3-2 in the South East Counties League on the Anstey Park artificial surface.

Hampshire started the game brightly, but failed to capitalise on their chances and went 1-0 down after 15 minutes from a close range header.

The line up was disrupted when Portsmouth's Aaron Grimshaw went off injured after a nasty fall, but Tauntons' Freddy Molyneux, an emergency substitute goalkeeper in the ESFA Cup tie, proved a more than adequate replacement.

Hampshire quickly levelled when the Kent goalkeeper keeper spilled Drew Smith's free kick, and Peter Symonds' hit man Max Kirwan followed up to equalise from close range.

Mike
Vimpany



Kent restored their lead and changed round 2-1, albeit down to ten men after a high and dangerous tackle on Josh Clark led to a red card and the Barton Peveril midfielder limping out of the tie.

Hampshire dominated the second half and made the extra man count.

Ten minutes into the second half BP's Drew Smith clipped a corner from the left hand side back to the edge of the box, where Max Kirwan hit a first time volley into the top corner.

"It was an absolute wonder goal, reminiscent of Paul Scholes for Manchester United against Bradford's City a few years back," enthused Hampshire manager Luke Hampton.

"We were filming the game, but unfortunately the camera ran out of battery just before the strike - much to Max's disappointment!"

Hampshire made it 3-2 mid-

way through the second half when some great work in the channel by the influential Kirwan, saw him cut the ball back for Lewis Wild to side foot home what proved to be the winner.

Hampshire clung on to their lead and missed several late chances to make the scoreline more convincing.

"All in all it was another good day's work and now the lads are looking forward to the chance to beat Essex and gain a place in the ESFA final.

"There were strong performance once again from Tyler Burns, Drew Smith and Harry Bayles, but Max Kirwan was my Man of the match.

Hampshire's team was: Jake Graham (RTC), Jean-Luc Ramdin (Itchen), Drew Smith (BP), Jordan Ngalo, Tyler Burns, Aaron Grimshaw (all Portsmouth), Jack Wilson (Itchen), Harry Bayles (PSC), Josh Clark (BP), Max Kirwan (PSC), Lewis Wild (BP). Subs: Harry Prisk (BP), Louis-Rae Bentley (Sparsholt), Jack Barnes (Itchen), Jake Willis (Itchen), Freddy Molyneux (RTC).

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (WESSEX)



The League are seeking applicants to fill the following positions for the 2017/18 season

COMPETITION SECRETARY

The successful candidate will need to be computer literate in Word and Excel and have good organisational skills together with the ability to deal with day to day correspondence efficiently.

They will also have to attend Monthly Meeting's as well as other Meeting's to represent the League when required.

They will also need to forge a close working relationship with the League's Officials, Clubs, The Football Association and County FA's.

A knowledge of local non-league football would be an asset.

ASSISTANT REFEREES SECRETARY

The post involves the appointment of Assistant Match Officials for fixtures on a monthly basis through the use of the FA's Full Time administration system and making any necessary changes through injury or unavailability at the last minute.

You will need to work closely and liaise with the League's Referee's Appointment Secretary. There is a need to be literate in Word and Excel Spreadsheets.

A knowledge of Refereeing and Refereeing procedures would be an advantage.

Both posts are voluntary but all out of pocket expenses will be met.



Please apply in the first instance to the League Secretary, John Gorman at: - leaguesecretary.wessexleague@gmail.com

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Top flight
ins and outs
this month

from page 7

SAINTS

Out: Dominic Gape (Wycombe) free, Jose Fonte (West Ham) £8m

STOKE CITY

In: Lee Grant (Derby) £1.3m, Saido Berahino (West Brom) £10m
Out: Jakob Haugaard (Wigan) loan, Joel Taylor (Rochdale) loan

SWANSEA

In: Tom Carroll (Tottenham) £4.5m, Martin Olsson (Norwich) £4m, Luciano Narsingh [PSV Eindhoven] undisclosed

TOTTENHAM

Out: Tom Carroll (Swansea) £4.5m, Ryan Loft



Jose Fonte

(Stevenage) loan, Connor Ogilvie (Stevenage) loan

WATFORD

In: Tom Cleverley (Everton) loan, M'Baye Niang (AC Milan) loan, Mauro Zarate (Fiorentina) Undisclosed

WEST BROM

In: Jake Livermore (Hull) £10m

Out: Tyler Roberts (Shrewsbury) loan, Andre Wright (Yeovil) loan, Craig Gardner (Birmingham) loan, Saido Berahino (Stoke) £12m

WEST HAM

In: Jose Fonte (Saints) £8m, Nathan Holland (Everton) Undisclosed

Out: Alex Pike (Cheltenham) loan, Lewis Page (Charlton) undisclosed, Jaanai Gordon (Newport) loan, Martin Samuelson (Peterborough) loan

EASTLEIGH 0 WOKING 1

Cards deal rough
hand to SpitfiresWendy
Gee

EASTLEIGH'S hopes of making a late charge for the Vanarama National League play-offs were derailed by ten-man Woking at the Silverlake Stadium this afternoon.

The third-to-bottom Cards survived the 68th-minute dismissal of Dennon Lewis to hold on for a shock 1-0 victory courtesy of Gozie Ugwu's first-half header.

Spitfires manager Martin Allen restored popular left-back Michael Green to the starting line-up, along Jai Reason and James Constable, in a trio of changes from last week's 1-1 draw at Sutton.

Mikael Mandron, Ben Strevens and Sam Muggleton dropped to the bench.

After a moderately uneventful opening, Eastleigh began to tick after ten minutes when Green went scampering down the left and went tumbling under Dennon Lewis's challenge. Ross Stearn delivered a decent free-kick, but big defender Bondz N'Gala failed to get the right contact with his header.

Constable then played in 6ft 4in targetman Darius Henderson whose left-foot strike drew a comfortable save from ex-Spittfire Michael Poke in the Cards goal. But, from showing signs of promise, Eastleigh soon found themselves under the cosh.

Goalkeeper Graham Stack temporarily got the Spitfires out of jail, saving with his feet to deny Woking skipper Kieran Murtagh with 14 minutes gone but, just two minutes later the lowly Surrey visitors seized the lead.

With Eastleigh's defence all at sea, the ball broke to Lewis on the right and it was all too easy for the Cards as he delivered towards the penalty spot where Gozie Ugwu powered in a free header.

Henderson had another couple of half chances for Eastleigh, bending a left-foot shot wide and making his aerial presence felt as Hakeem Odoffin crossed deep from the right.

But Woking's pace and movement on the break was a constant threat to the home side and Spitfires so nearly found themselves two down on 29 minutes when



Michael Green was restored to the starting line-up

goalscorer Ugwu powered menacingly in from the right and, with Stack closing him down, screwed his shot narrowly wide of the far post. Eastleigh threatened intermittently from free kicks and corners but were lacking cutting edge – a problem addressed in the 40th minute when young Tyler Garratt made way for top scorer Mikael Mandron as Allen went with three up top.

It was Woking, though, who had the next big chance with new Colchester loan signing Macauley Bonne finding himself in similar territory to teammate Ugwu on the right of Eastleigh's area. This time Stack took the sting out his shot and it held up in the mud on the far side of the area before Eastleigh cleared.

Half-time: Eastleigh 0 Woking 1
Allen made another roll of the dice for the second half, withdrawing Green and introducing the potent weapon of new signing Sam Muggleton and his famed long throw.

Within three minutes of his introduction the former Barnet man chucked one in from the left and, although Woking cleared at the near post, the ball fell to Stearn who fired over from distance. With Eastleigh's physicality coming to the fore, they began bombarding the Woking box but

there was still no joy for the Spitfires and, on hour, Allen prepared to introduce new signing Mekhi McLeod.

But either side of the speedy, young wideman going on to replace Constable, Eastleigh lost their way again and were lucky not to fall further into arrears.

With the powerful Ugwu keeping N'Gala occupied, Charlie Carter charged in to nick the ball and rifle a shot just wide.

Ugwu then raced onto a ball over the top, forcing a crucial block from Stack who then managed to deal with Carter's follow-up.

McLeod's introduction had an immediate impact, however, and with Woking struggling to cope with his pace, Lewis paid the ultimate price, picking up two yellow cards in the space of three minutes to reduce his side to ten men with 22 minutes to go.

That sparked a renewed sense of urgency from Eastleigh and, after Stearn had screeched a shot narrowly wide from Henderson's knockdown, Woking were lucky to survive a dangerous Muggleton corner which saw N'Gala's header hit the bar. Eastleigh claimed handball in the frantic aftermath as the visitors cleared it off the line, but referee Alan Young disagreed.

With the game ticking into the 89th minute, Eastleigh's second-half endeavours finally looked to have paid dividends when Muggleton hurled in another throw from the left. N'Gala flicked it on to the far post where it somehow evaded the outstretched leg of Odoffin.

The Spitfires threw the kitchen sink at the ten-man visitors as four minutes of added time was announced, but the Cards magnificently threw bodies behind the ball in the face of ferocious pressure from the home team. Poke played his part tipping one over the bar and the outstanding Favio Saraiva cleared one off the line amid a goalmouth scramble at the death.

Eastleigh: Graham Stack Hakeem Odoffin, Michael Green (Sam Muggleton, 46), Sam Togwell, Bondz N'Gala, Adam Dugdale, Tyler Garratt (Mikael Mandron, 40), Jai Reason, James Constable (Mekhi McLeod, 60), Darius Henderson, Ross Stearn. Subs (not used): Ben Strevens, Ayo Obileye.

Referee: Alan Young.
Attendance: 2,036

● Eastleigh's National League game against Macclesfield Town, postponed last Tuesday owing to a frozen pitch, has been rearranged for Tuesday, February 21 (7.45pm). It will remain a FREE ENTRY fixture for all supporters.

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

TEAM SOLENT 2 SOUTH SHIELDS 5

Students stunned by Arca's 'worldy'

By Simon Walter

TEAM Solent crashed out of the FA Vase as South Shields completed a comfortable win at Test Park with a stunning 40-yard strike from ex-Sunderland star Julio Arca.

The Argentine's spectacular left-footed chip beat Solent keeper Bradley Banda, prompting a pitch invasion from many of the 400-plus away fans in a crowd of 638 - a Test Park record.

Former Hartlepool striker David Foley scored one and was involved in the other three goals as the Vase favourites booked their place in the quarter-finals for the first time since 1976.

It may have been a different story if Team Solent captain Jesse Waller-Lassen had not missed a penalty in first-half injury time.

After his side levelled through defender Jim Orvis, the former Spurs youngster struck the base of the left-hand upright after Adeoye Olumuyiwa was fouled.

Northern League South Shields dominated the first 20 minutes.

Foley was denied by an outstanding left-handed save by Solent goalkeeper Bradley Banda before Gavin Cogdon's header struck a post from close range.

South Shields were rewarded when Alex Nicholson fired the opening goal through a crowded penalty area in the 18th-minute.

Waller-Lassen had Solent's first shot on target, a direct free-kick tipped over the bar, before Orvis levelled out of nothing in the 28th minute.

Banda kept Solent level with a terrific save low to his right from Briggs but Olumuyiwa missed a gilt-edged chance to give the home side a 30th-minute lead.

Oluwatobi Adekunle was denied by South Shields keeper Liam Connell moments later.

With South Shields a man down following a clash of heads, Solent won a penalty following Wayne Phillips' foul on Olumuyiwa.

But Waller-Lassen dragged it on to the post and Connell kept out Jemal Wiseman's follow-up chip.

South Shields scored twice in four minutes early in the second half. Foley's cross was turned in by Solent defender Ellis White and he soon made it 3-1 after be-



Team Solent's Jesse Waller-Lassen in FA Vase action last year



Jim Orvis, pictured in FA Vase action earlier this season scored today

ing put through, a composed 56th-minute finish sparking joyous scenes amongst the away fans.

Ten minutes later, Foley's jink-

ing run created another opportunity, but this time his shot was saved by Banda.

Robert Briggs nearly made it

four with an attempt similar to Arca's magical late strike, but his 35-yard chip hit the cross bar.

Solent reacted quickly enough to deny Carl Finnegan the chance to net the rebound and ensured an exciting finish when defender Patrick Nolan pulled a goal back.

Waller-Lassen's cross was headed back across goal by Silvano Obeng and Nolan netted from close range.

Solent soon had a wonderful chance to equalise. But Lewis Pitts' free header from Orvis's cross was straight at the keeper.

South Shields restored their two-goal lead through substitute Carl Finnegan, Foley having collected Connell's punt to provide the cross.

Then Arca provided the coup de grace with a reminder of his Premier League quality.

Williams dynasty

A tennis grand slam final was this weekend again contested by Serena and Venus Williams. The sisters were facing each other in Saturday's Australian Open showpiece, having last contested a slam final at Wimbledon in 2009.

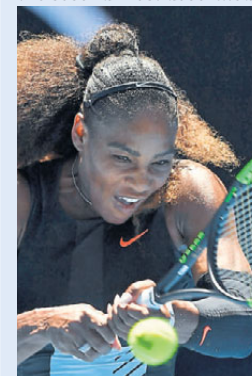
Here are some of the staggering numbers behind their dynasty.

44

Saturday's match will be the 44th grand slam final the pair have contested either together or against another player. It will be Serena's 29th and Venus' 15th.

22

Serena's current total of grand slam wins. She sits tied with Steffi Graf as the second-most decorated



Serena Williams

player of all-time. Margaret Court leads the way with 24.

7

Slams won by Venus, the last being Wimbledon in 2008.

9

Saturday will be the ninth meeting between them in slam finals, Serena leads 6-2.

71

Their combined aged - Venus is 36 and Serena 35 - make this the oldest women's grand slam in the Open era.

13

Slams won together in doubles.

92

Million pounds of career earnings, Serena with £65m and Venus £27m.

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Gosport troubles

A TRIP to AFC Portchester awaits the winners of this Tuesday's Russell Cotes Cup quarter-final between Gosport Borough and Tim Cole's AFC Stoneham at the Aerial Direct Stadium.

Sydenhams One outfit Stoneham, the lowest ranked side left in the competition, will be hoping to take of advantage of the current upheavals at Gosport to knock the troubled National League South club out of the competition and book a date with Graham Rix's Royals.

The other RCC semi-final pits Sydenhams Premier leaders Moneyfields at home to Bemerton Heath.

Both semi-finals are scheduled for February 21. Russell Cotes Cup semi-final draw: Moneyfields v Bemerton Heath Harlequins, AFC Portchester v Gosport Borough or AFC Stoneham.



Tim Cole

● The Sydenhams Wessex League are demanding a return of the good 'old-fashioned' telephone call.

Last Saturday was easily the worst hit weather-wise this season with only three Premier fixtures surviving the big freeze and the entire Division One programme wiped out.

But instead of ringing their opponents to advise them about postponements, some clubs merely posted the information on social media – much to the dismay of the SWL.

A league statement issued last Sunday said: "We appreciate the service social media provides, but when a game is postponed the secretary of the home club MUST advise the opposing secretary and the league, preferably by telephone."

Sholing's Jean-Luc celebrating England call



Jean-Luc Ramdin, left.

JEAN-LUC Ramdin is one of two Hampshire youngsters called up for the England Schoolboys' under-18 squad.

The Itchen College student, who plays for Sholing's development squad, made the cut for the final 16 after impressing in a weekend of training and trial matches.

He was in line to play for the Three Lions in a friendly against Australia today (Saturday) at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Another training weekend will follow at the end of February as England prepare to defend the

Centenary Shield title against fellow home nations Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Wales.

Applauding Ramdin's call-up as "a brilliant achievement and opportunity for Jean-Luc, Sholing FC said: "We wish him all the best."

Itchen (College) Sport tweeted: "Huge congratulations to Jean-Luc on being selected for the ESFA national representative football team."

Ramdin, a right-back, is joined in the ESFA squad by Jordan

Ngalo, a defender/midfielder from Portsmouth College, who has never been on the books of a football club.

The 17-year-old played Sunday League football but never took the game seriously until going to college.

England's Centenary Shield schedule - Scotland v England at St Mirren on March 3, followed by England v N Island (Torquay, March 24, 7pm), Rep of Ireland v England (Dublin, April 13) and England v Wales (Bristol Rovers, April 21, 7pm).

Vase hero Carter signs for Havant

By Wendy Gee



MIKE Carter has followed TJ Cuthbertson out of National League South crisis club Gosport Borough.

While Cuthbertson has rejoined Sholing in the Sydenhams Wessex League, Carter - also an ex-Boatman - has signed up for Havant & Waterlooville's promotion push from the Ryman League Premier Division.

Midfielder/full-back Carter, a key cog in Sholing's FA Vase/Sydenhams Premier double-winning season of 2014, made his debut for Havant last Saturday, but things didn't go to plan for the Hawks.

They were beaten 3-1 at home by promotion rivals Needham Market, dropping them third in the table, and manager Lee Bradbury was sent to the stands.

Bradbury, though, believes Carter will have much to offer his side once he regains full match fitness after a spell in limbo at Gosport.

He said: "Mike can give us added steel and determination in the middle of the park, plus experience and hunger."

"He's a little bit different to what we've got."

"He's signed until the end of the season with a view to going forward from there."

Carter admitted that all the off-field issues at Gosport had made life difficult over the last 12 months.

"I just wanted to play football and didn't need all the hassle which came with it a Borough," he said.



Mike Carter (right) celebrates Sholing's 2014 FA Vase triumph with Nick Watts.

"It came to the point where a few of us had just had enough and it was time to look after ourselves a little bit."

Another player to join the Borough exodus last weekend was ex-Saints, Havant and Eastleigh defender Brett Poate.

It ended a fruitful six-year stay for the 33-year-old which included promotions from the Southern

One South & West and Southern Premier Division and a Wembley appearance in the 2014 FA Trophy final.

Poate said he was "gutted" to be leaving, but felt the departure of many key players - plus well-respected assistant manager Mick Catlin - had "taken the heart out of the club."

Unlike Carter, Cuthbertson

and Warren Bentley (Hungerford Town), who have all found new clubs, Poate is in no rush to dive straight back into football even though clubs have already been in touch.

Poate tweeted: "Gutted to be leaving @GosportBoroFC had 6 great years! Hopefully club can get back to where it belongs on and off the field all the best."

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Ex-Eastleigh pair on target in Trophy victory

EX-EASTLEIGH duo Craig McAllister and Dean Beckwith were on target as cup specialists Sutton United booked their place in the last 16 of the FA Trophy on Tuesday.

The Spitfires old boys scored either side of half-time to put the Us in control of their

second round replay against Worthing before Sam Rents and Lloyd Dawes (penalty) took the tie to extra-time at Gander Green Lane.

It was on-loan Portsmouth midfielder Adam May who emerged as the stoppage-time hero for Paul Doswell's Us, who will entertain

Boreham Wood next Saturday.

On the down side for Sutton, central defender Beckwith suffered a hamstring injury which threatens to rule him out of tomorrow's (Sunday, 2pm) big FA Cup fourth round tie at home to Leeds United

Bentley off to a flier on his debut

By Wendy Gee



WARREN Bentley wasted no time announcing his arrival at Hungerford Town on Monday night.

The twinkle-toed former Alresford and Winchester City striker joined the West Berkshire side from National League South rivals Gosport Borough last weekend.

He was drafted straight into the squad for their VLS showdown with Paul Reid's Whitehawk and, after being introduced as a 62nd-minute substitute, struck Hungerford's third in a 3-1 victory with two minutes of normal time remaining.

The little wizard did what he does best, darting between two defenders and deftly flicking the ball past the Hawks' advancing former Eastleigh 'keeper Ross Flitney.

Flitney had been involved in Hungerford's sixth-minute opener, hauling back Luke Williams at the expense of a penalty which Nat Jarvis converted.

Marvin Hamilton's own goal plunged the Hawks further into arrears before Danny Mills pulled one back for the visitors.

But the last word belonged to master marksman Bentley as the Crusaders extended their impressive unbeaten league run to ten games, taking them seventh in the table.

The loss of Bentley, 26, was part of the collateral damage sustained by Gosport amid their recent financial woes.

He was one of four established players to have parted company with the troubled Aerial Direct Stadium club last weekend, following TJ Cuthbertson (now Sholing), Mike Carter (now Havant & Waterlooville) and ex-Saints, Havant and Eastleigh defender Brett Poate out of the door.

Bentley was Gosport's leading scorer this season with 14 goals from 27 league and cup appearances and, under different cir-



Warren Bentley, right.

cumstances, would surely have bumped up that tally had Borough not hit choppy waters.

His record in the lower leagues was nothing short of remarkable. Having hit 58 goals in his farewell season with Sydenhams Premier outfit Alresford, he netted 113 in just two years with Winchester City, 57 of them coming last season following promotion to the Southern One South & West.

Throughout that time, Bentley – a PE teacher at Sholing Technology College – had been on the

radar of Hungerford boss Bobby Wilkinson who is delighted to have finally got his man.

Professing himself "overjoyed" to have brought Bentley to Bulpit Lane, he said: "It's a hell of a signing for this club."

Bentley's decision to join Hungerford will have come as a disappointment to Winchester City who tried their hardest to get him back.

City's director of football Dave Malone confirmed earlier this month that they had put an offer on the table to both Gosport and

Bentley.

But, deep down, Winchester always suspected that the talented striker would end up staying at a higher level if a suitable club came along.

Malone said: "We gave it our best efforts to tempt Warren back to the Denplan – but he decided he wanted another shot at the Conference South, which is understandable."

"As I understand it, Warren has signed only until the end of this season – so who knows what the future might hold?"

Unwanted double

THE BRADBURY family achieved an unwanted family double last weekend with both father and son sent off.

Havant & Waterlooville boss Lee Bradbury was sent to the stands during the second half of his side's 3-1 defeat at home to Ryman Premier promotion rivals Needham Market.

And it was a sorry weekend too for his 18-year-old son, Harvey, who clocked up two yellow cards for Portsmouth's Academy side in a 3-2 loss at Plymouth.

Bradbury Jnr had earlier netted his 12th goal of the season for Mikey Harris's team.

Dad Lee found himself in hot water when he appeared to tackle Needham's Kemal Izzet in trying to retrieve the



Lee Bradbury

ball, leaving the opposition skipper grounded.

But the Havant boss explained: "A free-kick had been given, but Izzet ran away with the ball, pretending he didn't hear the referee's whistle, so I stepped onto the pitch to pass the ball to their player."

"Izzet nicked the ball at the last second as I swung my leg and I ended up kicking him."

"The referee told me afterwards: 'I know exactly what happened, but you stepped onto the field of play and had to go off.'"

● DORCHESTER Town boss Craig Laird has boosted his attacking options by signing Lewis Powell on loan from his old club Weston-super-Mare.

The young forward, who has joined the Southern Premier club on a two-month deal, was previously part of Laird's squad when he was in charge at Yate Town.

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Kilimanjaro challenge

A MUCH-LOVED footballer is tackling one of the world's highest mountains in memory of his wife.

Salisbury City legend Roger Emms is setting his sights on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa to raise funds for Prospect Hospice, a charity which provided care and support for Rhian while she had cancer, *writes Joel Holt*.

Emms will start his seven-day trek in September through dense tropical rain forest up to the snow-capped summit.

On his donation page, the 50-year-old said: "In memory of Rhian it just seems the right thing to do.

"Conquering the world's largest freestanding mountain will be unlike anything I've ever done before and unlikely to do again!

"I hope that it will prove to be the challenge of a lifetime and one I will never forget, and most importantly it will raise



Roger Emms

vital funds for a fantastic cause in the memory of a fantastic lady and wife..... and great friend to so many."

So far, Emms has raised £4,000 – half of his fundraising target.

Many Whites supporters, who remember Emms for his central defensive duties from 1992 to 2004, have pledged their support to his climb.

Dave Todd posted on Facebook: "Really sorry to hear this. Rhian used to watch Roger at the Park. Not exaggerating when I say Emmsy is one of my all-time favourite players.

"A top, top bloke and a true legend when that word gets used far too easily."

Emms played with the likes of Tom Killick, Tyrone Bowers, Andy Cook, Matt Tubbs, Taffy Richardson, Scott Bartlett, Paul Sales and Wayne Turk during his Salisbury days.

He also had stints at Burnham, Andover, Newbury Town, Swindon Athletic, Devizes Town and Penhill FC.

● To sponsor Emms, visit www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/roger-emms1kilimanjaro. In addition, a Legends v Supporters' Club match is being arranged at the Ray Mac to raise funds for Prospect Hospice.

Sholing's friendly with Japanese tourists



Sholing and Kagoshima United teams. Picture: Sholing FC Development)

SHOLING Youth FC were not going to let the small matter of a frozen pitch stand in the way of them hosting some very special visitors last Saturday night.

The Boatmen's under-18 development squad had been due to bring a flavour of the Far East to the Universal Stadium with an international friendly against Kagoshima United under-18s from Japan.

And although freezing tempera-

tures put paid to their first-team fixture against Sydenhams Premier leaders Moneyfields, Sholing were able to shift the evening friendly to the 3G surface at Southampton Solent University's Test Park ground.

A J3 Japanese League side, Kagoshima initially had hopes of playing a Saints academy/development team. They are friends with the Premier League club's Japan defender Maya Yoshida.

The team were visiting the city as part of a trip, organised by the Football Samurai Youth Academy, to commemorate the first Japanese students coming to the UK just over 150 years ago.

The 19 Satsuma students arrived in Southampton from Kagoshima on a steamship named The Australian in 1865.

Sholing captain Cameron Ross exchanged pennants with his opposite number prior to a well-

contested game played in chilly conditions at Test Park.

It was the Japanese youngsters that edged it 3-2 thanks to a Hyeon-ning Cho hat-trick. Jake Robinson and Fraser McLean netted the Boatmen's replies.

A tweet posted by Sholing Youth FC said: "Thank you to Kagoshima Utd FC a fantastic team. The game played in great spirit. We wish you a safe journey home & hopefully see you again."

Claridge happy with Whites' gates

By Joel Holt

MANAGER Steve Claridge is content with Salisbury's attendances this term.

The Whites have been averaging gates of around 700 at the midway point of the Southern One South & West season.

That is slightly down on last year's triumphant Sydenhams Wessex title-winning campaign, but Claridge reckons supporters are still getting "value for money".

He said: "I've been slightly surprised because I got absolutely lambasted when I said 490 people turned up (against Didcot) and I was disappointed with that.

"But then the next game was a cup game and there was probably 200 or 300 more people who turned up for that than I'd expected.

"I don't think there's an awful lot more we can do from our side to bring people in. I don't think anyone can say they haven't had value for money out there.

"Right from day one, although



Salisbury manager Steve Claridge

we probably haven't had the results we've had last year, the quality of opposition and the quality of play has been far better.

"It might be slightly down (on

last year) because we put the 1,500 in from Bemerton which brought the average up slightly, so I don't think we are million miles away from where we need to be.

"We're 600-700 people. That is what we have to do going forward and where we can really budget out.

"We don't expect to drop much below that or go hugely above that unless we've got a big cup game or a game of some significance.

"People tell me even in the Conference the crowds, home gates-wise, weren't hugely different to that, but we didn't expect to be hugely different to last year.

"The drop-off is probably natural but if you are saying what can we do now, from a football perspective we've done everything that has been asked of us.

"From a board perspective we are listening and trying to make whatever we can right."

● Salisbury's delayed Southern League Challenge Cup third round tie at Shortwood was postponed once again on Tuesday due to a frozen pitch. It will now take place on January 31.

A new date of Tuesday, February 7 has been fixed for the quarter final tie with Barnstaple.

Should Salisbury advance, their home league match against Winchester City will be rearranged.

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL



Fleetwood keen to stay a Terra

FORMER Eastleigh and Forest Green Rovers frontman Stuart Fleetwood is keen to stay at Weymouth.

The experienced Bath City frontman's loan spell, which has lasted three months, is set to come to an end after the Terras' home game against Cinderford Town today.

Weymouth player-manager Jason Matthews stated earlier this week that he would like to

keep Fleetwood, pictured left, on board at the Southern Premier Division outfit and the striker is hoping the clubs can "get something sorted".

Great bunch

He said: "I have spoken to Jase about it and I'd like to stay until the end of the season.

"It's games for me and I am really enjoying it with the team.

"They are a great bunch down here and I enjoy playing good football, which is what we try and do.

"Hopefully we can get something sorted with Bath.

"I see my chances being quite limited there if I go back.

"I don't really want to go back and sit on the bench for three months, so hopefully we can come to some sort of agreement and see what we can do."

Lionesses come first for Burch

By Wendy Gee



LEE Burch may have to wait a while for another Fawley AFC clean sheet.

The striker-turned-goalkeeper looked to be on course for a shut-out last Saturday when the Oilers eased 3-0 up in their crucial Sydenhams Premier basement battle with Cowes Sports.

But James Wykes hit back for the Yachtsman for a final 3-1 scoreline and Burch will now miss some games while he concentrates on his role as manager of Women's Super League outfit Millwall Lionesses.

Burch, who managed Hythe & Dibden before becoming head coach of AFC Totton under Steve Hollick, said: "The Lionesses have got a few away games coming up. They play on a Sunday, which means we have to travel on a Saturday.

"I'll still play as much as I can for Fawley, but I won't be around as much. The women's stuff has to take precedence."

Since breaking his leg playing for AFC Totton Reserves in the autumn of 2015, Burch's days as an outfield player appear to be over.

But stepping in as a goalkeeper for Fawley this season has given him a new lease of life.

"I'm enjoying it," he said. "After my injury, it feels good to be back playing."

The past few weeks have been difficult for the Oilers since the sudden closure of the Waterside Sports & Social Club.

They have had to arrange early kick-offs at Long Lane, unable to use the floodlights, but at a time of adversity the team have really pulled together.



Fountain Court's Lee Burch

The Cowes win made it three games unbeaten, offering real hope that Fawley can avoid the relegation trap door.

"Cowes are down there with us, so this was a massive game," said Burch.

"I think a lot of people thought it would be off (because of the

freezing temperatures) but, although the pitch was a bit hard to start with, it thawed out quite quickly and actually got quite soft in the middle, leading to lots of mistakes.

"We worked really hard to get in their faces, played football when we could and made sure that if

any mistakes were made, we capitalised."

One such Cowes error presented itself just three minutes in, allowing Kieran Roche to snatch the Oilers an early lead.

The Waterside outfit kept plugging away and got their reward when central defenders Callum Chugg and Aaron Lucas popped up with headers from corners in 41st and 64th minutes, rendering Wykes' reply a mere consolation for the Islanders.

With the Sports & Social Club closed, Fawley had to celebrate their victory at local pub, but Burch is hopeful the situation will be resolved.

"Although the clubhouse isn't open, the changing facilities and showers are there," he said.

"Hopefully, going forward, the club will get things sorted.

"Everyone's been great getting the matches on.

"The pitch was as good as gold last week - I didn't mind diving on it!"

Relishing

Although the Oilers still have much work to do to protect their Wessex top-flight status, Burch says the team are relishing the fight.

"The fact we're playing for something every week rather than just being mid-table and not going anywhere makes it more of a challenge," he said.

"I haven't been personally involved in a relegation battle for a long time and it gives you a double boost if you get a result and someone else around you slips up.

"Apart from defeats against Blackfield and Team Solent, two strong teams, we've been in good form of late.

"We've gone three without losing and have only conceded once in each of those games. I feel we've turned a bit of a corner."

NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sunday, January 29
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Hayes & Yeading v Kettering.

Monday, January 30
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Cambridge City v Weymouth.
SYDENHAMS LEAGUE CUP
Quarter-final: Team Solent v Tadley Calvea.

Tuesday, January 31
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Solihull Moors v Lincoln.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
St Albans v Welling Utd.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Banbury v Basingstoke, King's Lynn v Slough, Merthyr Town v Redditch.
Division One South & West: Taunton v Shortwood, Wantage v North Leigh.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup quarter-final: Baffins MR v Hamworthy Utd, Sholing v Hamble Club.
Premier Division: Andover Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Horndean v AFC Portchester.
RUSSELL COTES CUP
Quarter-final: Gosport Borough v AFC Stoneham.

Wednesday, February 1
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup quarter-final: Alresford Town v Shaftesbury.

Saturday, February 4
FA TROPHY
Third round: Welling v Lincoln, Braintree v Dulwich, Barrow v Kidderminster, Tranmere v Chelmsford, Macclesfield v Forest Green, Wealdstone v Brackley, Nuneaton v York, Worthing v Sutton v Boreham Wood.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Bromley v Torquay, Dagenham & Redbridge v Chester, Gateshead v Southport, Maidstone v Aldershot, Woking v Solihull, Wrexham v Guiseley.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Dartford v Whitehawk, East Thurrock v Hemel Hempstead, Eastbourne Borough v Hampton & Richmond, Ebbsfleet v Concord, Maidenhead v Poole, Truro v Gosport Borough, Weston-super-Mare v Bath City.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Banbury v Cambridge City, Basingstoke v Weymouth, Chesham v St Neots, Cinderford v Frome, Dorchester v Merthyr Town, Hitchin v Kings Langley, Kettering v Biggleswade, Kings Lynn v Leamington, Redditch v Chippenham, Slough v Dunstable, St Ives v Hayes & Yeading, Stratford v Cirencester.
Division One South & West: Barnstaple v Mangotsfield, Didcot v Salisbury, Larkhall v Bideford, Paulton Rovers v Taunton, Shortwood v North Leigh, Slimbridge v Hereford, Swindon Supermarine v Bishops Cleeve, Tiverton v Bridgwater, Wimborne v AFC Totton, Winchester City v Wantage, Yate v Evesham.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Sholing, Amesbury v Alresford, Bemerton HH v Whitchurch, Blackfield & Langley v Andover Town, Bournemouth Poppies v Fareham, Cowes Sports v Brockenhurst, Lymington Town v Hamworthy Utd, Moneyfields v Fawley, Portland Utd v Bashley, Team Solent v Newport IOW, Verwood v Horndean.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v Alton, Baffins MR v Folland Sports, Downton v Shaftesbury, East Cowes Vics v Totton & Eling, Fleet Spurs v New Milton, Hythe & Dibden v Pewsey Vale, Laverstock & Ford v US Portsmouth, Ringwood v Hamble Club, Romsey v Andover NS, Weymouth Res v Tadley Calvea.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Andover Lions v Clanfield, Hayling Utd v QK Southampton, Liphook v Infinity, Overton v Fleetlands, Stockbridge v Liss, Winchester Castle v Colden Common.

Division One: Headley Utd v South Wonston Swiffs, Netley Central v Lyndhurst, Sway v AFC Petersfield, Upham v Michelmersh & Timsbury.

Combination: Bush Hill v Paulsgrove, Clanfield v Winchester Castle, Fleetlands v Liphook, Four Marks v Headley, Hedge End Rangers v Hayling Utd, Michelmersh & Timsbury v QK Southampton.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP
Quarter-finals: Bournemouth Electric v Bush Hill, West Wight v Locks Heath.
ALDERSHOT INTERMEDIATE CUP
Quarter-final: Frimley Select v Four Marks.

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

All change at 'Field

PETERSFIELD Town has scrapped the club's director of football role.

Graeme Moir, chairman of the Southern One Central basement boys, said: "I can confirm that Gary Lines has left the club in his capacity as director of football and as a committee member.

"The committee decided that the role of director of football was not working for the football management side of the club and, after Gary's departure, we will not be seeking anyone else for the role.

"The club would like to place on record its thanks to Gary for all of his hard work, both on and off the pitch, while he has been with us this season."

No other changes have



John Robson

been made to the Rams' football management team, meaning John Robson and his assistant Matt Collins remain in charge of first-team matters and Shane Brayson and his assistant Tim Farmer will continue running the reserves.

Lines had been with Petersfield since moving to Love Lane from Hampshire Premier League side Liss Athletic in September.

He briefly took charge of first-team affairs after Ian Saunders' successor Andy Neal stepped down from the manager's role in October.

Then, in bizarre sequence of events, he fleetingly stepped in again when Robson was sacked in November only to be swiftly reappointed just a matter of days later.

Wakefield joins Poole after Shots release

FORMER AFC Bournemouth youngster Josh Wakefield has joined Vanarama National League South outfit Poole Town.

The 23-year-old midfielder came through the youth ranks at Cherries but was released in the summer having made just four appearances, all of which were

in 2012.

During his time at Dean Court, Wakefield experienced loan stints at Walsall, Yeovil, Bristol Rovers, Torquay, Welling, Dorchester, Dagenham & Redbridge, Hamworthy United and Wimborne Town.

He joined Aldershot in August following his release by Bournemouth and made 17 appearances in the National League, helping the Shots to the brink of the play-off places. However, Wakefield was released earlier this month along with Iffy Allen and Charlie Walker.

'Useless' Joe gets a great move

By Paul McNamara

WHEN Joe Partington headed for the relative backwater of Eastleigh in January 2015, you would have got pretty long odds on him ever carving out a career in the Football League.

Longer still if he had opened a window into his emotions at the time. Partington was, by his own admission, feeling "a little bit useless".

It had all started so promisingly. Partington made his Cherries debut at the tender age of 17 and scored his first goal for the club as an 18-year-old – in a 2-1 victory at Swansea.

He was in the team on the day of Eddie Howe's managerial bow.

Partington, however, has latterly been piecing back together a career that was in danger of being torpedoed by his rotten luck with injuries.

And his reward for two years of excellence in an Eastleigh shirt arrived this month with a move to upwardly mobile League One club Bristol Rovers.

Rewind to the summer of 2015, though, and Partington hardly had suitors banging down his door.

He said: "I was worried, because I felt I had played well enough on loan with Eastleigh to spark some interest.

"But after talking to (then Eastleigh boss) Richard Hill I decided my best option was to sign for Eastleigh permanently, get back to playing football and playing consistently well.

"People saw my age and the number of games I'd played in the couple of years leading up to when I left Bournemouth – and it didn't look good."

Those injuries. After surgery to repair a fractured tibia in April 2013, Partington picked up an infection which required four further operations to cure.



Eastleigh FC Defender Joe Partington, left

On loan to Aldershot in February 2014, he ruptured the lateral collateral ligament in his knee.

Consequently, five years after turning out in a 2-1 defeat at Darlington as Howe's reign got off to an inauspicious start, Partington had to make do with a front-row seat as the manager masterminded Cherries' rise through the leagues.

"It was such a good place to be when the club was having so much success," he says.

"But not being directly involved, you question your usefulness. You feel a little bit useless.

"I couldn't train, I couldn't contribute to the team. You wonder 'am I going to have a career here or not?'"

"The reality is you're not, so you have to get your head around that and crack on."

His time working under Howe still influences Partington today.

"Eddie's such a great manager," he says. "His attention to detail in

terms of his coaching has stuck with me and I think a lot of the attributes I have are down to the work I did with him."

Partington was thrust straight into the mix for Rovers, a club chasing a third straight promotion.

He made his debut as a sub in a 3-1 defeat at Fleetwood.

"To get my debut out of the way was good," he says. "I've been given an opportunity to play and that's what I'm going to do."

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Alfy injury blow on 'ice rink' a blow for Stags



Alfy Whittingham

AFC TOTTON are steeling themselves for another trip to Hartley Wintney this Tuesday following a wasted journey in midweek.

Much to the Stags' surprise, their Hampshire FA Senior Cup quarter-final at Wintney's Memorial Playing Fields HQ was given the ahead following an afternoon pitch inspection.

Given that the likes of Eastleigh had already called their game off owing to the freezing temperatures, Totton travelled to north-east Hampshire with an element of trepidation about the weather.

And their suspicions proved well founded when, after a slippery first half, the referee postponed the game because of a frozen pitch.

It was a sensible decision in the eyes of Totton boss Louis Langdown, albeit that it came too late to spare Stags' on-loan Havant & Waterlooville midfielder Alfy Whittingham from injury as he lost his footing on the frosty surface.

Bemoaning Whittingham's misfortune, Langdown said: "We've lost Alfy to an injury picked up on an ice rink."

"Why the game was ever on, I don't know. It was never going to beat the freeze."

"I can't fault Hartley Wintney for wanting to play, but when there were teams higher up the pyramid calling games off, it didn't make sense to travel."

"It's costly for us because we've got to go back up there next Tuesday (January 31,

7.30pm) which means we've had to put the Paulton Rovers league game back - and we've lost Alfy in the process."

"He tried to turn, but slipped and fell over and twisted his ankle."

"We were short of players as it was for the Senior Cup and had to pitch in three 16-year-olds. We're slowly running out of people to play in that fixture."

Joint Hartley Wintney manager Daniel Brownlie said: "Whilst the pitch was hard, both teams were playing good football on it. "It was the way in which it was called off that disappointed me."

"It was no worse at half-time than it was 20 minutes into the game, so if he felt the need to call it off, it should have been done then."

Nomadic Lee has left for last time

By Wendy Gee



NOMADIC youngster Tony Lee has left Eastleigh again - this time on a permanent basis.

After a host of loan spells away from the Silverlake Stadium, the versatile 20-year-old has signed forms for Vanarama National League South club Gosport Borough.

Rewind to November 2015 and hopes were high that exciting young talent Lee was an Eastleigh first-team player in the making.

Early on in Chris Todd's managerial reign, the Southampton-born striker/defender became the first young professional to sign terms with the club for almost ten years.

According to the Spitfires, the player was keen "to follow in the footsteps of Aaron Martin, who later signed for Southampton, and Will Aimson, who went to Hull City."

At that stage Lee's stock was high, having just fired in six goals in three games on loan at South & West side AFC Totton and dipped his toes into the Southern Premier waters with Dorchester Town.

Loaned out

But the youngster, who joined the Spitfires as an under-15 and studied on the club's scholarship scheme, was quickly loaned out again and has since done a mini tour of the south with Tiverton Town, Gosport, Whitehawk and, most recently, Cirencester Town.

Announcing Lee's departure,



Tony Lee

an EFC statement said: "Tony Lee has been allowed to move on from Eastleigh FC to pursue his ambition of first-team football."

"He has now linked up with

Gosport Borough and we wish him well for the future."

Lee joins Gosport at a time of turmoil at the Aerial Direct Stadium with many of Borough's

big hitters having left due to the club's well-publicised financial difficulties.

He was one of five new recruits unveiled earlier this week.

Also fresh in at Borough is Saints Academy graduate Joe Lea, who arrives on loan from League Two side Yeovil Town until the end of the season.

A Saint from the age of nine, energetic midfielder Lea joined Yeovil in July last year and made his professional debut a month later as a sub against Everton in the League Cup.

The 19-year-old, Portsmouth-born player has since spent time on loan at Dorchester Town.

With goalkeeper Nick Jordan injured, Gosport boss Alex Pike has also swooped for ex-AFC Bourne-mouth youngster Dan Thomas who recently left Weymouth by mutual consent.

Faith

Defensively, Borough will be putting their faith in 20-year-old six-footer Tamille Roache, released from contract by Southern Premier outfit Basingstoke Town.

He was previously with Barnet and Met Police.

Those four were followed into Gosport by 20-year-old Duran Martin, an Antigua international midfielder signed from Corby Town.

Lee, Thomas, Lea and Martin all featured for Borough at home to East Thurrock United on Tuesday, but it was the Essex visitors who triumphed 5-1 - a repeat scoreline from the away match earlier in the season.

It left Borough dangling just two points above the drop zone with 17 matches to play.

Italy on end of several unwanted records

The RBS 6 Nations tournament is set to get under way on February 4.

Here is a look at some of the tournament's records from since it became a six-team event in 2000 - most of them coming in one game!

Highest team score

80-23, England v Italy, Twickenham, 17/02/2001

Biggest win

57 points - 80-23, England v Italy, Twickenham, 17/02/2001

Most tries

10 - 80-23, England v Italy, Twickenham, 17/02/2001

Most conversions by a team

9 (all Jonny Wilkinson) - 80-23, England v Italy, Twickenham, 17/02/2001



Jonny Wilkinson

Most yellow cards (one team)

4 - Italy, in losing 33-12 to France, Stade de France, 02/02/2002

Individual records

Most points in a match

35, Jonny Wilkinson, England v Italy, Twickenham, 17/02/2001

Most tries in a match

4, Chris Ashton, England v Italy, Twickenham, 12/02/2011

Fastest try

20 seconds - Mauro Bergamasco, Italy v Scotland, Murrayfield, 24/02/2007

Doswell's off to Wembley!

Sutton United manager Paul Doswell is aiming to complete a hat-trick of cup celebrations tomorrow - after FA Trophy and EFL Cup wins for his two favourite teams this week.

The Saints season-ticket holder watched the EFL semi-final win against Manchester United, 24 hours after Sutton beat Worthing 3-2 after extra time in the FA Trophy.

Sutton's FA Cup heroics are the only reason Doswell was not in attendance at Anfield on Wednesday night.

Yet the 50-year-old still had to admit he was watching the Southampton game rather than running the rule over Leeds, who were beating Nottingham Forest at the same time.

"I was going to go, I had tickets, but that was on the assumption that we weren't going to beat Wimbledon to be honest. I'd even booked a hotel.

"But because of the importance of what is coming up I stayed at home and watched it on the TV. My



Paul Doswell.

son went instead.

"Then I was so excited that Saints had got through that I couldn't sleep, so I watched the Leeds game at 3am."

Doswell sits in the Itchen Stand with several friends and family members, including son Freddie, 14.

"I love non-league football but Saints are my Premiership passion and with so many games on Sundays and Mondays it's easy to do both," he said.

"I'll be there at Wembley all day long - in fact there will be about 40 of us heading over."

Doswell was also at the San Siro for Saints' Europa League clash against Inter Milan.

Speaking before the Anfield win, he said: "Milan was a brilliant day, but I didn't go to Prague because I was getting disillusioned with some of the football we were playing, if I'm honest.

"The Norwich game was horrendous, so bad I left after 70 minutes which I've never done before,"

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Doswell and Baird:

By Simon
Walter



IF Sutton United beat Leeds United tomorrow, it will be an FA Cup shock that has its roots in a friendship born in Southampton 38 years ago.

Sutton boss Paul Doswell has known head coach Ian Baird since he was 12, through Baird's younger brother Darren, his Southampton Schoolboys teammate in the late 1970s.

They are plotting another shock at Gander Green Lane after winning their third-round replay at rivals AFC Wimbledon 11 days ago.

There is no shortage of nostalgia seeping from this fixture as Leeds legend Baird prepares to come up against the club whose fans still revere him for his gutsy performances in two spells as a combative centre-forward during the 1980s.

Baird, who lives in Durley, scored 57 goals for Leeds in 190 appearances.

"It will be a strange feeling, I enjoyed two fantastic spells at Elland Road and this will be the first time in my career as a player, manager or coach that I have come up against them," said the 52 year-old.

"I've only ever been back there to do the odd Q & A session since leaving 27 years ago. But the fans have always been good to me and have recognised me in some far-flung places - even after I lost my hair! One of them has even written a book about me!

"There seems to be a Leeds fan who remembers me everywhere I go."

Baird's career included a run to the 1987 FA Cup semi-finals, where Leeds lost 3-2 after extra time against eventual winners Coventry at Hillsborough. "It was a massive disappointment but I was only 22 and thought chances like that would come around every season.

"I played in two Scottish Cup semi-finals but it was nothing like the FA Cup."

Baird was just five years old when Sutton hosted Don Revie's Leeds in the fourth round of the 1970 FA Cup.

Sutton lost 6-0 to the league champions, with Allan Clarke scoring four of them and Peter Lorimer, who would become a teammate of Baird's 15 years later, the other two. Leeds were captained by Billy Bremner, who brought Baird back to Leeds after nine months at Pompey in 1988, and also included the likes of Jack Charlton, Norman Hunter and Johnny Giles.



Former Eastleigh bosses Paul Doswell and Ian Baird have taken Sutton through to the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Baird, who was reunited with Doswell as Sutton's head coach in October 2014, is expecting a closer contest this time, against a Leeds side fourth in the Championship under fellow ex-Saints Garry Monk and James Beattie.

After a five-year spell as Eastleigh manager, he was commenting for Radio Leeds when Doswell approached him.

"We've had our fall-outs in the past, but we've dovetailed brilliantly - we're like The Odd Couple," he laughs.

Last season Doswell and Baird

led Sutton into the National League alongside assistant manager Micky Stephens, a Sutton United legend who played in the win against Coventry.

"We were desperate to get out of Conference South," said Doswell. "To go up as champions, by going 26 games unbeaten, was fantastic. It's been a great journey."

Baird has described himself as "a little bit of a Grim Reaper" in contrast with the ebullient Doswell.

"Many people didn't think it would work well but it's gone bril-

liantly," said Doswell. "We bounce off each other and Baird brings a lot to the management side with Micky. We don't view ourselves as a 1,2,3 but between the three of us it works really well."

Sutton's win against Coventry was famously played on a muddy, sandy surface; nothing like the £500,000 top-of-the-range 3G pitch that Doswell had installed at his own expense 18 months ago.

It may become as synonymous with FA Cup shocks as Yeovil Town's old slope, but Doswell knows Leeds will be prepared.

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

the 'odd couple'



Sutton's Maxime Biamou, right, celebrates after scoring in the FA Cup replay win against AFC Wimbledon.

"They have their own 3G training pitch and have also played on 3G at Harrogate Town so it's not the advantage some perceive it to be."

Conference North Harrogate became the latest non-league club to invest in a 3G pitch last summer, Sutton having followed Maidstone United's lead.

Winchester City have also explored the possibility. "[Director of football] David Malone and [chairman] Paul Murray are totally behind the concept," said Doswell, who will be paid back his interest-free loan with Sutton's

FA Cup prize money.

A dad of seven since wife Kate gave birth to their twin girls six years ago, Doswell also juggles his (unpaid) football commitments with Doswell Projects, the building business he shares with his brother.

He lives in Compton, Winchester, where he built the family home, and makes the three-hour round trip to Sutton with Baird three times a week.

"We drive up every Tuesday and Thursday at 8am, those are our days set aside for football," con-

tinues Doswell.

"Baird runs a successful scaffolding firm (Elite Scaffolding), but a lot of our business work is done on the phone so we can do that en route.

"Baird's addicted to football and the club and the draw's brilliant for him. They love him up there, he was a hard-working centre-forward who didn't shirk out of anything."

The draw has certainly captured the imagination of the Sutton fans.

"The [5,000] tickets went on sale

on Sunday and sold out within four hours," said Doswell who took over at Sutton when they were bottom of Conference South in 2008.

But he has no interest in taking the club any higher.

"I've never wanted us to be a Football League club, that doesn't particularly excite me," he admits. "I love non-league football and we're trying to be the best non-league club we can be.

"We're a volunteer-led, debt-free community club and the pitch means we've got people using our facilities 12 hours a day, seven days a week instead of once a fortnight.

"If we end up in the play offs one day the pitch would have to be allowed in the Football League for a start. There's very little difference between the National League and League Two but we're miles away from being a top-five club."

Sutton's squad includes former Middlesbrough and Charlton midfielder Nicky Bailey and ex-Arsenal and Colchester United midfielder Craig Eastmond.

Doswell continued: "There are no stars but it's the best group of players I've had in terms of work ethic. I've been criticised for having a revolving door policy in the past but that's firmly shut.

"We don't have star names, but we have a collective of good players."

Also in the Sutton squad on Sunday will be 44 year-old Totton-based Wayne Shaw, the club's goalkeeping coach and business development manager, who makes a cameo appearance on the video that accompanies *Back on the Shoebox Terrace Again*, Sutton's catchy FA Cup song.

"You can't have enough Wayne Shaws around, he's a great lad and everyone loves him - and he'll be on the bench again on Sunday," smiled Doswell, who attracted attention in the Sutton technical area last week, for smoking an e-cigarette during the win against AFC Wimbledon.

Doswell's vaping evoked memories of the pipe-smoking Barry Williams during the famous win against Coventry.

"The pictures went viral and there were 1,000 comments from as far away as the USA, only a few of which were negative. I won't apologise for it, I was only a six-a-day man but they helped me give up smoking three years ago."

The lack of stress at Gander Green Lane must also help. "Eastleigh wouldn't be where they are without Dos but he enjoys his football more at Sutton," added Baird. "There isn't the same pressure to get three points and he doesn't have to worry whether the burger van's been paid for."

Sutton have friendly foes

Paul Doswell is looking forward to pitting his wits against Leeds boss Garry Monk and coach James Beattie.

Doswell knows Monk through his best pal David Hughes, the ex-Saints and Eastleigh midfielder who is now a football agent with the likes of Josh Sims on his books.

He said: "Garry has done a fantastic job there in very difficult circumstances and hopefully they give them the time to get them back to where they belong.

"If Swansea kept him I think they would be doing a lot better.

"He's a very talented manager; he was a thinking centre-half and he's a thinking manager.

"I know Garry from when he was a young defender at Southampton and Beats I know well.

"He's a very good friend. The last time I saw him was in a nightclub so it will be



James Beattie.

good to meet up with him in a football environment."

Doswell is expecting Monk to play a young side just as he did for Leeds' third-round tie at League Two Cambridge United.

"If I was in Garry's shoes, the overriding feeling is that I want to get Leeds into the Premier league," he told Reuters.

"It's a no-brainer compared to wanting to do well in the FA Cup because Leeds should be in the top flight.

"If I was in Garry's shoes I would be playing my best players who won't start against Blackburn Rovers [next Wednesday]

"My hunch is he will play eight or nine young players. But they have all played first-team football this year. We've analysed their first team and the young team that played against Cambridge and they both frightened us."

Sutton are without ex-Eastleigh defender Dean Beckwith (hamstring).

CHAMPIONSHIP INS AND OUTS JANUARY 2017

ASTON VILLA

Ins: James Bree [Barnsley] Undisclosed, Henri Lansbury [Nottm Forest] £2.75m, James Bree [Barnsley] Undisclosed, Birkir Bjarnason [FC Basel] Undisclosed, Conor Hourihane [Barnsley] Undisclosed

Outs: Rudy Gestede (Mboro) £6m, Pierluigi Gollini [Atalanta] Loan, Aly Cissokho [Olympiakos] Loan

BARNSELEY

Ins: Gethin Jones [Everton] Loan, Matty James [Leicester] Loan

Outs: Sam Winnall [Sheffield Wed] Undisclosed, James Bree [A Villa] Undisclosed, Conor Hourihane [A Villa] Undisclosed

BIRMINGHAM

Ins: Lukas Jutkiewicz (Burnley) £1m, Emilio Nsue [Middlesbrough] Undisclosed, Craig Gardner [West Brom] Loan, Cheick



Conor Hourihane.

Keita [Virtus Entella] Undisclosed, Kerim Frei [Besiktas] £2.2m, Dan Scarr [Stourbridge] Undisclosed

Outs: Alexander Jones (Bradford City) Undisclosed, Jon Spector [Orlando City] Free, Diego Fabbrini [Spezia Calcio] Loan

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Outs: Scott Wharton [Cambridge] Loan

BRENTFORD

Outs: Emmanuel Onariase [Cheltenham] Loan, Sam Saunders [Wycombe] Free

BRIGHTON

Ins: Fikayo Tomori [Chelsea] Loan

Outs: Jake Forster-Caskey [Charlton] Undisclosed, Kazenga LuaLua [QPR] Loan

BRISTOL CITY

Ins: Bailey Wright [Preston] Undisclosed, Fabian Giefer [Schalke] Loan, Wes Burns [Fleetwood] Undisclosed. Cont on facing page.

PINK

SAINTS

Your say on win

UNBELIEVABLE performance. That was a nail biter with a sheer joy ending. What a brilliant goal by Shane and assist from young Josh Sims.

What a save from Forster after nearly fudging his lines. What a performance from practically every one of the team and especially the support tonight.

Proper cup tie with a proper endingthe better side winning with no dodgy ref decisions.

Absolutely made up for all at SFC and especially for Claude.

I've moaned and groaned on here for the past few weeks like many others about going out of Europe with a whimper and watching us struggle through the Christmas period with 4 defeats, but what a difference a couple of weeks can make and some really good results.

Humble pie well and truly swallowed and so happy for my son and all the Saints fans that went tonight who witnessed such a momentous occasion and atmosphere.

When they do come along they sure do go a long way to make up for the disappointments that have gone before.

It's a funny old game and also a bloody emotional roller coaster ride especially being a Saints fan. J7junctionseven

Lets face it we were the better footballing, most dangerous side over two legs and had the most clear cut chances, yet even with all that we still could have come undone, for once the ref played fair, at Anfield of all places!

I am pretty sure the average life expectancy is noticeably lower in Southampton from an epidemic of heart attacks.

Warrens 76

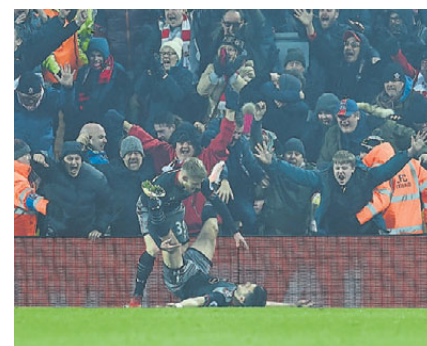
What a performance. Puel got it spot on. I've not been the biggest fan of Yoshida in the past, but he's having a great season with this being his best game in a Saints shirt. Our passing in tight areas was immense.

Feel terrible for Lovren, Lalana and Clyne who moved on to win things.....

Crispy-duck

Absolutely fantastic performance. Can't say enough about the team and Puel got it spot on. Liverpool must be sick of the sight of us this season.

Let's not get on the managers back if he plays a reserve team in the FA Cup. He has taken a lot of stick - some of it from me - but he completely out-did Klopp, and we were missing Fonte and VVD. What must Fonte be thinking now? Congratulations Jack Stephens, a brilliant game. Same to Maya, Romeu and Redmond.



Shane Long, main picture, fires Saints' second leg winner at Anfield and, above, celebrates with Josh Sims.

Playing your best 11 is working, Mr Puel - please keep it up (after Saturday of course).

AndyT in Salt Lake City

We did this with six Englishmen and a Northern Irishman starting. We saw three academy graduates not looking out of place at all either. Excellent game management throughout. Loved

the Lovren songs too. Great night. exiledinyork

It really was La La land in Anfield. Kop silenced! Well done Saints for defending with iron and Shane's sucker punch. got to be said

Thank you Markus and Kat for making this possible

Frankie Bennett

To the fans at Anfield - you were immense; your unwavering vocal support helped galvanise the team. Take a collective bow. TrojanOtter

Great fun to watch; an excellent match very well played by both clubs; it was exciting to the end.

PINK

SAINTS

at Liverpool...



Saints celebrate their amazing win at Anfield and, right, Fraser Forster makes a magnificent save in the second half.

It was the most interesting Saints game I've watched all season. Where was all the boring passing to the rear? It seemed to me the players themselves cut loose when they could.

It was fun to watch them play aggressive football again.

Kudos to the team. Well played guys. I'm glad I had the day off work and could watch it.

Vermont_Saint

I am not a Puel fan BUT tonight he did get it right. Even the mighty Mark Lawrenson said Saints are giving L'pool a lesson in playing football.

Then at the end was man enough to say that on both games the better side won.

Is there a connection that Fonte

goes and we play the best football of the season?

vidman

Going to be buzzing for days , proud of every player , proud of Claude,proud of Black ,proud to be a saints fan !!!

saintand266

Seen a few postings on Liver-



pool sites saying we deserved it and to make sure we beat the Mancs in the final!

I'm so happy, my son and I were running round the living room and the 2nd half lasted about a day and a half ! So looking forward to a trip to Wembley.

Saint Vectis

One of the best rearguard actions I've seen from saints in 50 years watching. Stephens was immense. The break aways and passing was brilliant at times considering the pressure.

Great night. Well done lads and the fans,heard them slagging loren and singing above all the liverhampton mob.

matts granddad

14 men of the match tonight with special shouts for Jack, Maya and Oriel, while Claude and his team deserve the plaudits for getting their tactics spot on.

As for the fans (who suffered a bit of a mare getting there), this is your night. Tonight will live forever as one of those 'I was there' nights. Enjoy every last bit of it.

Strasbourg Saint

Congratulations to all involved at Southampton F.C. others teams may take our players and our managers but not the spirit of our club.Well done to you all.

sportbilly

Amazing that in the last three games (excluding Norwich), we've stopped tinkering unnecessarily, and appear to have dropped the b****y diamond; what a difference it has made.

I listened on R5L, couldn't believe Lawrenson heaping praise on SFC. Must be a new broom at the BBC!

Days out at Wembley are utterly special, so sad we won't see Markus's big beaming smile there next month.

Tony Robertson, Stranraer

Right, so we are in a final.

I have said quite a few times recently that we should be able to do better in the cups because of the overall improvement in our squad.

That is what happens when a club stays in the Prem and gets better players in at every window of opportunity.

We have sold many, but we have bought the same amount and most go on to become better players with our club.

We all know that there is a chance that this method could go wrong, but so far it hasn't!

There are going to be a lot of jealous clubs out there now looking very closely at our methods.

dadofmy3sons

from facing page

BRISTOL CITY

Outs: Diego De Girolamo [Cheltenham] Loan, Taylor Moore [Bury] Loan, Richard O'Donnell [Rotherham] Undisclosed

BURTON ALBION

Ins: Luke Varney [Ipswich] Free, Luke Murphy [Leeds] Loan

Outs: Callum Reilly [Burton] Loan, Stuart Beavon [Burton] Free

CARDIFF CITY

Ins: Greg Halford [Rotherham] Undisclosed

Outs: Tom James [Yeovil] Free, Eli Phipps [Colchester] Undisclosed, Tommy O'Sullivan [Colchester] Undisclosed

DERBY COUNTY

Ins: Julien de Sart [Middlesbrough] Loan, David Nugent [Middlesbrough] Undisclosed

Outs: Farrend Rawson [Coventry] Loan, Charles Vernam [Coventry] Loan, Andreas Weimann [Wolves] Loan, Callum Guy [Port Vale] Loan, Jamie Hanson [Wigan] Loan



Kieffer Moore

FULHAM

Ins: Thanos Petsos [Werder Bremen] Loan

Outs: Sean Kavanagh [Hartlepool] Loan, Cameron Burgess [Bury] Loan, Jozabed [Celta Vigo] Loan, Marek Rodak [Accrington] Loan, Ryan Tunnicliffe [Wigan] Loan

HUDDERSFIELD

Ins: Izzy Brown [Chelsea] Loan, Collin Quanan [Union Berlin] Undisclosed

Outs: Will Boyle [Cheltenham] Free, Flo Bojaj [Newport] Loan

IPSWICH TOWN

Ins: Jordan Spence [Unattached], Toumani Diagouraga [Leeds] Loan, Kieffer Moore [Forest Green] Undisclosed, Steven Taylor [Unattached]

Outs: Luke Varney [Burton] Free

continued on page 20

from page 19

LEEDS UNITED

Ins: Pablo Hernandez [Al-Arabi] Undisclosed
 Outs: Luke Murphy [Burton] Loan, Toumani Diagouraga [Ipswich] Loan

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Outs: Freddie Woodman [Kilmarnock] Loan, Sean Longstaff [Kilmarnock] Loan, Cal Roberts [Kilmarnock] Loan, Ivan Toney [Scunthorpe] Loan, Alex Gilliead [Bradford] Loan

NORWICH CITY

Outs: Harry Toffolo [Norwich - Scunthorpe] Loan, Martin Olsson [Swansea] £4m

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Outs: Tyler Walker [Port Vale] Loan, Gerry McDonagh [Cambridge] Loan, Henri Lansbury [Aston Villa] £2.75m

PRESTON NORTH END

Outs: Ben Davies [Fleetwood] Loan, Bailey Wright [Bristol City] Undisclosed



Henri Lansbury.

QPR

Ins: Kazenga LuaLua [Brighton] Loan
 Outs: Ben Gladwin [Swindon] Loan, Sandro [Antalyaspor] Undisclosed, Sebastian Polter [Union Berlin] Undisclosed, Brandon Comley [Grimsby] Loan, Joe Lumley [Bristol Rovers] Loan, Brandon Adams [Persatuan Bola Sepak Perlis] Loan, Tjaronn Chery [Guizhou Hengfeng Zhicheng] Undisclosed

READING

Ins: Tiago Ilori [Liverpool] Undisclosed
 Outs: Jake Cooper [Millwall] Loan, Niall Keown [Partick Thistle] Loan

ROTHERHAM UNITED

Ins: Richard O'Donnell [Bristol City] Undisclosed
 Outs: Dominic Ball [Peterborough] Loan, Greg Halford [Cardiff] Undisclosed

*Continued on facing page***PINK****SAINTS**

Anfield – Puel's

By Peter Howard

YOU could see what it meant to him.

His face screamed more emotions than a therapist's office has ever witnessed.

Relief. Jubilation. Passion. And so many more.

It was a complete release of all his pent up feelings.

And if there were any doubts from Saints fans over whether or not their manager cares, this spoke the 1,000 words that his press interviews never have.

Claude Puel was in pure and utter ecstasy when Shane Long scored that 90th minute goal to send him to Wembley.

It was a strike that sent everyone from Saints into delirious celebration as they sealed a 2-0 aggregate win over Liverpool in the League Cup semi-final second leg.

However, in all the commotion, it was Puel's reaction that was most striking to me.

He rarely articulates too much emotion in his press conferences.

He was composed as any other post-match interview at Anfield.

But it's often his behaviour on the touchline that gives an insight into his character.

He is softly spoken and has a calm demeanour, but is often seen expressing every emotion in his technical area.

He can be seen pacing, flapping his arms, shouting and generally getting animated at every game.

That helps when your interviews can be virtually emotionless.

And this particular celebration was more than just cheering Long's sensational winner.

It was so much more.

There's no doubt that his tenure at Saints has been turbulent.

Puel has lurched from success to failure during his short time at St Mary's.

Winning against Inter Milan, but then losing to Hull next time out - and then failing to qualify for the Europa League group.

Beating Arsenal in the League Cup quarter-final, but then losing to Crystal Palace next time out.

Those are just a few examples. Back and forth he's stepped, from hero to zero.

It's never allowed the Frenchman to settle, especially because he has a very specific way of doing things.

When something is going right, nobody questions his rotation.

When things are going well, it's hard to criticise his formation and tactics.

But when inevitably it all comes crashing back down again, fin-

Claude Puel shows his emotions after Shane Long had scored at Anfield on Wednesday.



gers are pointed.

The Puel out hashtags are rolled out on social media.

The microscope is put under all that he's doing and has done.

It's something the press write about, too.

They have to analyse and, if necessary, criticise.

By reaching Wembley, by doing something so few have done before him, Puel's stepped, for the first time, into a place where he is

for now untouchable.

How can any criticism gain any kind of traction after he became the first Saints manager since 2003 to lead the team to a major final?

He has the chance to stand alongside the greatest Saints manager ever, Lawrie McMenemy.

If he manages to pull off what McMenemy did in the FA Cup final of 1976 and beat Manchester

United at Wembley, then he'll go down in history.

Once again, things have lurched from absolutely awful to wonderful in a matter of weeks.

Having lost four Premier League games on the trot before last Sunday's 3-0 victory over Leicester, question marks swirled around Puel's management once more.

Long-serving captain Jose Fonte had gone to West Ham - to "win

PINK SAINTS

redemption day



trophies" - and Saints were starting down the barrel at a scrap in the lower reaches of the Premier League.

Many suspected that they'd go to Anfield and get turned over.

It would be the story of this season.

Often so close to something special, but always falling short.

Puel has demolished that theory and his team look to be building a really good base of performances.

They were top notch across both legs against Liverpool, and completely domineering against Leicester.

So after all the ups and all the downs, was Puel's celebration at Anfield a demonstration that he knows he's thrown off the shackles of negativity and started to build something special at Saints?

He's certainly bought himself time to get more of his ideas perfected.

Puel is in charge of Saints' busiest ever Premier League era campaign, with Europe and cup runs filling up their schedule like never before.

That cannot of helped the Frenchman implement his ideas fully, with little breaks in between games.

But Saints are reaching a point where the games will start to thin

out and Puel will be able to get on the training ground even more.

He'll be able to get his team working more efficiently and build on their superb work during this last week.

Puel's outpouring of emotion at Anfield was so much more than a goal celebration.

It was a man showing that his hard work was paying off.

from facing page

SHEFFIELD WED

Ins: Sam Winnall [Barnsley] Undisclosed, Morgan Fox [Charlton] Undisclosed

Outs: Sergiu Bus [- Astra Giurgiu] Free, Sean Clare [Accrington] Loan.

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Ins: Jakob Haugaard [Stoke] Loan, Ryan Tunnicliffe [Fulham] Loan, Marcus Browne [West Ham] Loan, Jamie Hanson [Derby] Loan

Outs: Craig Davies [Scunthorpe] Undisclosed, Nathan Byrne [Charlton] Loan, Sanmi Odelusi [Rochdale] Loan

WOLVES

Ins: Andreas Weimann [Derby] Loan

Outs: Ola John [Deportivo La Coruna] Loan, Prince Oniangue [Bastia] Loan, Jed Wallace [Millwall] Loan

LEAGUE 2 INS AND OUTS

ACCRINGTON

Ins: Harvey Rodgers [Hull]



Luke Coulson

Loan, Jonathan Edwards [Hull] Loan, Sean Clare [Sheffield Wednesday] Loan, Marek Rodak [Fulham] Loan

Outs: Chris Eagles [Port Vale] Free

BARNET

Ins: Luke Coulson [Eastleigh] Undisclosed, Charlie Clough [Forest Green] Undisclosed

Outs: Luke Gambin [Luton] Undisclosed

BLACKPOOL

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Ins: Jake Carroll [Hartlepool] Undisclosed, Paul Lewis [Macclesfield] Undisclosed, Scott Wharton [Blackburn] Loan, Gerry McDonagh [Nottingham Forest] Loan

CARLISLE UNITED

INS: Gary Liddle [Chesterfield - Carlisle] Undisclosed

Continued on page 22

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CHELTENHAM TOWN

Ins: Emmanuel Onariase [Brentford] Loan, Diego De Girolamo [Bristol City] Loan, Will Boyle [Huddersfield] Free, Scott Brown [Wycombe] Loan, Carl Winchester [Oldham] Free, Alex Pike [West Ham] Loan, Kyle Wootton [Scunthorpe] Loan

COLCHESTER UNITED

Ins: Eli Phipps [Cardiff] Undisclosed, Tommy O'Sullivan [Cardiff] Undisclosed

CRAWLEY TOWN

Ins: Josh Lelan [Unattached]

CREWE ALEXANDRA

Ins: Jordan Bowery [Leyton Orient] Loan, Ryan Lowe [Bury] Free

DONCASTER ROVERS

Ins: Ian Lawlor [Manchester City] Undisclosed

GRIMSBY TOWN

Ins: Gavin Gunning [Greenock Morton] Free, Brandon Comley [QPR] Loan,



Josh McQuoid.

Jamey Osborne [Solihull] Undisclosed, Akwasi Asante [Solihull] Undisclosed, Chris Clements [Mansfield] Undisclosed

HARTLEPOOL

Ins: Sean Kavanagh [Fulham] Loan, Joe Fryer [Middlesbrough] Loan

Outs: Aristote Nsiala [Shrewsbury] Undisclosed, Jake Carroll [- Cambridge] Undisclosed

LEYTON ORIENT

Outs: Jay Simpson [Philadelphia Union] Undisclosed, Jordan Bowery [Crewe] Loan

LUTON TOWN

Ins: Lawson D'Ath [Northampton] Undisclosed, Luke Gambin [Barnet] Undisclosed,

Outs: Mark O'Brien [Newport] Loan, Josh McQuoid [Stevenage] Loan

Continued on facing page

PINK

SAINTS

Saints' transfer

By Simon Carter



BEFORE Christmas, Saints fans urged the club to splash the cash to bring in a new striker when the January transfer window opened.

More than 3,000 supporters voted in a poll on dailyecho.co.uk and the paper's Twitter feed, and were emphatic in their desire for the club to bring in a new goalscorer.

A whopping 69 per cent of voters said they wanted Saints to buy a new forward this month.

Fast forward to today and those fans have yet to get their wish.

It's fair to say, with only a few days left before the window slams shut, they are unlikely to get their wish either.

If Tuesday's deadline passes with no new striker arriving, it's also fair to say the powers-that-be at St Mary's have gambled.

And there is no guarantees at all that the gamble will work out.

Since nine-goal top scorer Charlie Austin was injured in early December, Saints have played eight league matches and scored nine goals.

That is actually a better average than when Austin had played – Saints only managing 13 goals in their first 14 league games under Claude Puel.

But, despite those statistics, Saints are still lacking up front – certainly if they are to stand any chance of their Premier League season not petering out into mid table anonymity.

Jay Rodriguez and Shane Long – the two main strikers available to Puel in Austin's absence – have scored five times in 12 starts and 20 sub appearances between them.

Rodriguez has netted four times in 622 minutes – an average of one goal every 155 minutes.

That is a ratio very close to Austin's record of a goal every 145 minutes in the league this term. And, it's worth bearing in mind, two of Austin's goals were penalties.

Long, like Rodriguez, has been restricted to just six league starts so far (though he has come off the bench 12 times).

He has only netted once in the league under Puel, in the 2-1 loss to West Brom on New Year's Eve. And his reward for breaking his seasonal drought was to be dropped to the bench for the trip to Everton two days later.

On scoring his second goal of the season, in the FA Cup replay win against Norwich, he was again dropped to the bench last Sunday as the manager continued to rotate furiously.



Charlie Austin was scoring freely for Saints before his injury.

Saints' goal figures are not good under Puel.

They have scored just 22 in as many league games – the fourth lowest in the top flight after Middlesbrough (18), Sunderland (20) and Hull (20).

Saints did actually possess the second worst record prior to putting three past Leicester at St Mary's.

That was only the fourth time in 22 games that Saints had scored more than once in a league game during Puel's inconsistent reign.

However poor those figures are, they are not necessarily ones that will herald the arrival of a new striker in the next few days.

Saints' technical director Les Reed hinted at a quiet month when he spoke to the Daily Echo

in early January.

"January is a very difficult window because it's a panic window, and players who are available in January are available for a reason," Reed outlined.

"Unless you are going to break all kinds of transfer records, or you're the type of club that has the finances to do that, whatever you do you are going to pay over

PINK

SAINTS

gamble up front



Claude Puel becomes the new Saints boss

Jose Fonte has finally gone

the top and probably for a player you would rather not have because the guy you want is not going to be available."

Saints have never been major spenders in a January window during Reed's time at the club, and almost certainly that will continue in 2017.

The most the club have ever spent in the winter window is the

£4m on Austin from Queens Park Rangers 12 months ago – and that was because they realised Graziano Pelle would be leaving in the summer.

"Our focus is that we don't panic and we are not tempted to patch things up, but we do have a situation where if an opportunity did arise and we could improve the squad then we would consider it

on its merits at the time," Reed added.

"We have 1,000 players on our database churning over that we are monitoring 365 days a year, so it's not like we come to a window and go 'right, who's around?'"

"We know what we would like to do to improve this squad, both for now and from now on for the next few years, but it's always

a question of availability, and availability at the right price, and whether the player would come to the club."

The key words in that last sentence are "availability at the right price". And as we have seen in the current window, you certainly can't guarantee that.

Crystal Palace have paid £12m for a player, Jeff Schlupp, who wasn't even a regular in a struggling Leicester side.

Middlesbrough have paid over £5m on a striker, Patrick Bamford, who has never scored a Premier League goal.

You can easily argue those are panic buys and, as Les Reed said, Saints don't do those.

However, as Reed also said Jose Fonte wouldn't be sold until a replacement had been signed, do we believe him?

Talking of Fonte, Saints could well enter the transfer market prior to Tuesday for a new centre half.

With Virgil Van Dijk injured and Fonte having been sold to West Ham, Puel is light in central defence.

Maya Yoshida has ample Premier League experience – this is his fifth season in the top flight with Saints, lest we forget – but many fans remain less than convinced.

Jack Stephens, meanwhile, is only 22 with just a handful of top flight appearances to his name.

Though Puel has shown he is more than happy to give the younger players a chance – that is one of the main reasons he was appointed, after all – is it fair to throw Stephens in at the deep end in the middle of a Premier League campaign?

His performance at Anfield the other night could suggest it is fair: Reed has asked for patience from Saints fans, insisting the club haven't got too much wrong in recent transfer windows.

In that, he is certainly right.

You only have to look at Leicester's displays this season to see just how well Saints have managed change.

The Foxes have only lost one member of last season's title winning team – N'Golo Kante – yet have struggled big time this term.

Saints lost four regulars in the summer of 2014 (Lambert, Lalana, Shaw and Lovren) and three in 2015 (Clyne, Schneiderlin and Alderweireld) – and actually improved their league performances.

They lost three more last summer – Mane, Pelle and Wanyama – yet remain a highly competitive outfit. Certainly more competitive than Leicester; anyway, even if they are a long way off repeating last season's top six finish.

Continued on page 24

from facing page

MANSFIELD TOWN

Ins: Hayden White [Peterborough] Loan, Shaquille Coulthirst [Peterborough - Mansfield] Loan. Outs: Mitchell Rose [Newport County] Free, Chris Clements [Grimsby] Undisclosed

MORECAMBE

Ins: Antony Evans [Everton] Loan

NEWPORT COUNTY

Ins: Aaron Williams [Peterborough] Undisclosed, Jaanai Gordon [West Ham] Loan, Sid Nelson [Millwall] Loan, Mark O'Brien [Luton] Loan, David Pipe [Eastleigh] Loan, Craig Reid [Gloucester City] Undisclosed, Flo Bojaj [Huddersfield] Loan, Mickey Demetriou [Unattached], Alex Samuel [Swansea] Loan, Mitchell Rose [Mansfield] Free, Ryan Bird [Eastleigh] Undisclosed

NOTTS COUNTY

Ins: Alex Rodman [Shrewsbury] Undisclosed

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE



Dominic Gape

Ins: Jakub Sokolik [Unattached], Nathan Blissett [Torquay] £15,000, Antoni Sarcevic [Unattached]. Outs: Karleigh Osborne [Kilmarnock] Free

PORTSMOUTH

Ins: Jamal Lowe & Nicke Kabamba [both Hampton & Richmond] undisclosed. Outs: Milan Lalkovic [Ross County] Loan

STEVENAGE

Ins: Ryan Loft [Tottenham] Loan, Connor Ogilvie [Tottenham] Loan

WYCOMBE

Ins: Dominic Gape [Southampton] Free, Sam Saunders [Brentford] Free. Outs: Scott Brown [Cheltenham] Loan

YEovil TOWN

Ins: Brandon Goodship [Bournemouth] Free, Tom James [Cardiff] Free, Andre Wright [WBA] Loan, Shayon Harrison [Tottenham] Loan

New striker still needed

from previous page

But the failure to bring in a new striker this month would be a bad decision by Reed and the rest of the Saints' hierarchy.

Long has never been a prolific top flight marksman – last season was his best ever in terms of goals, when he netted 10 times – while Rodriguez is still slowly getting back to the player he was prior to his dreadful knee injury at Manchester City in April 2014.

He has admitted himself he needs a run of games, yet with Puel's rotation policy has been unable to get that run. Perhaps only now, as the midweek fixtures come to a thankful end, could that change.

Let's be brutally honest here – Saints are not going to splash out £20m plus on a new forward in the next few days. A cheaper, younger player or a loan are more likely options.

And Sam Gallagher is not



Les Reed.

about to be recalled from Blackburn Rovers either, as a Plan B for the bench. His Premier League experience will remain, for the time being, shoehorned into 2013/14.

Apart from Fonte's departure, it has been a quiet January window at Saints. They generally are at St Mary's.

Only one other player has left, and that was young midfielder Dominic Gape making his loan move to League 2 promotion hopefuls Wycombe permanent.

The 22-year-old was today turning out for Wanderers in an FA Cup fourth round tie at White Hart Lane.

Saints fans, therefore, must cling on to hope that the final few days of this current window provide late fireworks.

Perhaps it is more hope than expectation in terms of making new signings. We won't have to wait long to find out, though.

PINK

SAINTS

Fonte's seven

By Simon Carter



Flashback to January 9, 2010, and the following words tumbled out of the mouth of Saints' new centre half.

"I've come here with a purpose which is to help this club move to the top divisions.

"It's a happy day for me and I just want to help the club.

"I want to play in the Premier League and I think I can do that quickest by moving here."

Time certainly proved Jose Fonte right.

The Portuguese defender had decided to swap Championship Crystal Palace for League 1 Saints, for a transfer fee of around £1.5m.

That was a huge sum for a third tier club, but Saints were no ordinary third tier club.

Boss Alan Pardew had already started spending new owner Markus Liebherr's cash on Rickie Lambert (£1m) and Dean Hammond (£400,000) earlier in the season.

Now the signing of Fonte was another statement of intent that Saints were on the way back.

The lowest points had been reached, and now the future was bathed in sunshine.

History shows Fonte made his Saints debut on January 16 2010 in a League 1 game at Millwall.

Among his colleagues were Jon Otsemobor, Danny Seaborne, Lloyd James, Lee Holmes and Paul Wotton.

Saints have come a long way since that day at The New Den, and Fonte was virtually an ever-present in one of the most amazing eras of the club's entire history.

By the time he was sold to West Ham for £8m, he had made 260 league appearances for the club – plus another 28 in cup competitions.

Along the way, Fonte had helped Saints win back to back promotions – catapulting them from League 1 in April 2011 into the Premier League by the end of April 2012.

After that, he helped establish the club as a Premier League force.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at Fonte's Saints seasons.

2009/10

Fonte helped Saints win silverware within two months of arriving at St Mary's.

He was part of the side which defeated Carlisle 4-1 at Wembley to lift the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

In all, he played 25 games for



Jose Fonte, above left, has just scored his first Saints goal at Bristol Rovers in August 2010. Right - Fonte gets a hug from chairman Nicola Cortese after Saints' JPT final win.



Saints as the club missed out on the League 1 play-offs – a 10-point penalty for going into administration the previous season costing them dearly.

2010/11

Fonte appeared in 44 of Saints' 46 League 1 games as the club won automatic promotion from

League 1 behind champions Brighton.

He scored seven goals as well – which would be his most prolific season for Saints.

His first goal for Saints, in the 4-0 win at Bristol Rovers in August 2010, came in what was Pardew's last game in charge.

Fonte was voted into the PFA's League 1 Team of the Year and

was a runaway winner of the Daily Echo Saints Player of the Season award.

2011/12

Fonte was again a key member of the back four, making 42 league appearances, as Saints won automatic promotion again – finishing behind Championship title

PINK

SAINTS

years at Saints



Jose Fonte heads Saints' second goal against Hartlepool in April 2011.
Right - Fonte receives a yellow card on his Saints debut at Millwall in January 2010.

winners Reading.

This time he scored just one goal – in the 4-0 home win over Coventry that clinched Saints' Premier League place.

2012/13

Fonte made 27 league appearances in Saints' first term back in the top flight, missing almost

two months through injury after being injured in an FA Cup tie against Chelsea in early 2013.

Fonte scored two goals – both coming in the same game a 2-2 St Mary's draw with Fulham.

2013/14

Fonte played in 36 of Saints' 38 top flight games and scored three

goals – including the winner at Hull City.

Off the field, he made headlines when he was headbutted by Dani Osvaldo in a training session at Staplewood.

At the age of 30, he also made his senior international debut for Portugal – coming on as a second half sub in a friendly against Argentina at Old Trafford in Novem-

ber 2013.

2014/15

Fonte only missed one league game for Saints and formed a superb central defensive pairing with loanee Toby Alderweireld.

2015/16

For the second season running, Fonte missed just one game – and that was through suspension after being sent off for the first time in his Saints career at home to Sunderland.

The highlight of his career came in the summer of 2016 when he helped Portugal win the European Championships.

Left out of the starting XI for the first two group games, Fonte kept his place for the remainder of the tournament when he was called upon.

2016/17

Fonte was again a regular in the Premier League, appearing in 17 of Saints' 21 games prior to his departure.

Controversially, though, he didn't play a single minute of the club's Europa League campaign with boss Claude Puel choosing to rotate his captain in place of Maya Yoshida alongside Virgil Van Dijk.

Speaking in 2015, Fonte said he owes Pardew and ex-chairman Nicola Cortese a huge debt of gratitude.

"I am forever thankful to them," he said.

"Alan Pardew was massive for me. He believed in me because he made me one of the captains and he gave me the opportunity to join this great club and project.

"Straight away, he gave me lots of confidence to come in and do my job and when we played under him I enjoyed my time.

"He started the process in this club, so you can never forget that.

"I did not want to drop down, but when I met Alan Pardew and Nicola Cortese I was very impressed with the vision and the ambition they had.

"I saw the players they had in the team and I thought to myself maybe I have a better chance to get in the Premier League with the club than if I stayed at Palace.

"It was a tough decision but one I do not regret. I have achieved so much with this club I have been very blessed to come here.

"It makes me feel proud."

Following his departure to West Ham, Fonte penned a farewell message to Saints fans on Instagram.

It read as follows ...

Continued on page 26

Six Nations by numbers

The 2017 RBS 6 Nations Championship promises to be a thrilling spectacle as the four home countries, plus France and Italy, attempt to become the kings of European rugby.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the competition by numbers.

42

the number of days covered by the tournament, from the opening games on February 4 to the 'Super Saturday' finale on March 18.

5

the maximum points a team can now claim under the new bonus points system - four for a win and one bonus point for scoring four tries or more.

3

the number of bonus points awarded if a team achieves a Grand Slam by winning all five of their matches.

65



Brian O'Driscoll

former Ireland captain Brian O'Driscoll's record for the most number of Six Nations appearances.

89

most points scored in a season by an individual, England's Jonny Wilkinson in 2001.

29

most tries in a season, scored by England in 2001.

11

Grand Slam triumphs for Wales, two behind England and two ahead of France.

36

Ireland's record number of wooden spoons.

18

years since Scotland were crowned European champions - the final time it was held as the Five Nations Championship.

Fonte: You're in my heart

from page 25

'Dear Saints fans
A lot could be said, I could argue and disagree, I could go on all day but in the end what it really matters is the journey we have been (on) together.

We have been to Wembley and won, achieved promotion after promotion, great premier league seasons with records broken, European football...and the list goes on!

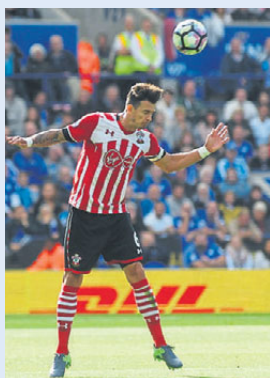
Not for a moment I regret anything I did, because I have given my all every single day I have worn the Saints crest until the last second of my last training session!

I have never rejected to play in any circumstances!!

A lot has been said about me and my situation, most of it lacked any accuracy but we all know how the football business works!

So now it's time to say THANK YOU!!!

To everyone without exception, even the ones



Jose Fonte.

who can't accept it and don't understand THANK YOU!!!

I will take every single one of you in my heart and all the great memories!

To all my team mates throughout the last 8 seasons thank you, for pushing me to be better, for inspiring me, for laughing with me for arguing with me and even fighting me - I'm a better player because all of you made strive for greatness!

A mention to all my managers to in Pardew, Adkins, Pochettino, Koeman and Puel for teaching me a lot in different ways!

To all the staff at the club I hope I wasn't much of a pain and i treated you with respect!

Take care and we see each other out there soon.'

Fonte could make his Hammers debut at home to Manchester City next Tuesday, and his first away game for his new club is expected to be back at St Mary's next weekend!

PINK

SAINTS

Your say on

SAINTS skipper Jose Fonte has bid farewell to the club after seven remarkable years at St Mary's.

Here are a selection of Saints fans' comments on the Daily Echo's website dailyecho.co.uk regarding his departure.

Good, now Saints and their fans can move on. Jose Fonte has been too much of a distraction and for too long. I wonder if he will be at West Ham until at least the age of thirty-five and a half, which is what Saints offered him, along with a pay rise. I wish him all the best whenever he does not play against Saints.

justaSaintsfan

Great move for Fonte. Saints can now move on with VVD as captain. New era at Saints

highanxiety

Yeh till end of season when vvd goes .nice new era of championship.

jburrows77

If and when he does we will get a good price for him and buy another one. Players come and players go. This is the way it is for clubs of our size and those coming will always be looking for their next step up the ladder. Every now and again we'll get lucky and there will be a Bertrand amongst them who is willing to park his boots here for a few years but mainly they will be looking to move on to one of the big clubs. Get used to it - it's always been this way and possibly always will be.

Armchair champ

Good luck Jose Fonte, thank you for your service to the club and I for one wish you all the best for your new chapter in football.

Now Les Reed my old fruit, if you wouldn't mind opening that cheque book to add some firepower upfront and a decent centre back it would be awfully appreciated.

JBS83

I hope he really regrets leaving us. He has done nothing but upset the ju! ju! since the summer and I am so pleased he was able to sign for a really big club and get that really big final contract he was after. I bet deep down he is actually gutted that things turned out this way because his family was settled here and I really think he thought he was destined for a Top Club.

bakeyboy

He may not have had a club at the very top of the pecking order but he was the captain of a great club and like so many before him decided the bird in the hand was not as good as the two in the



Jose Fonte left Saints just 12 games short of playing 300 competitive games for the club.

bushes. He goes to a club in even more turmoil than this and probably not on a penny more than we were offering either. Bon Voyage Jose. We loved you until you lost your senses. Fancy being taken in by agent hype at your age - no fool like an old fool eh!?

Armchair champ

West Ham paying up to 9 mil-

lion for a past his best 33 year old defender who doesn't want to play for us - great bit if business for Saints.

Abbey Saint

I think he cost Saints only about £1.5 million, so was great value and Saints have made a good profit.

justaSaintsfan

Profit profit profit..never mind how the fabric of the club is being destroyed by this sell sell sell anyone attitude.

redsnapper

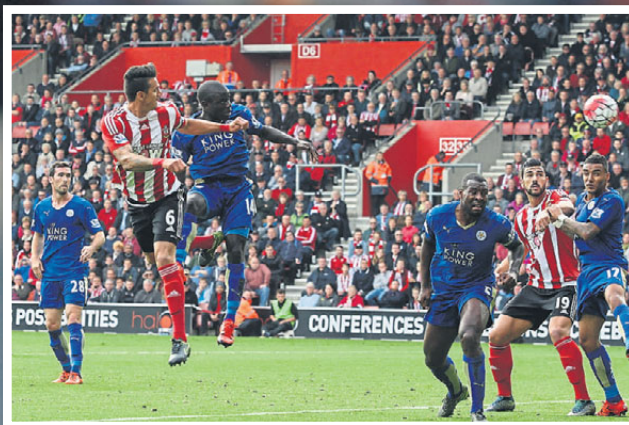
The club has handled this correctly IMHO - no player can hold us to ransom and when they try they get moved out - as it should

PINK

SAINTS

Fonte leaving

Jose Fonte heads a goal for Saints against Leicester last season.



Jose Fonte with his SaintsFC awards for Players' Player and Fans Player of the Year in 2014/15.



Jose Fonte is congratulated by fans after Saints score at Hull in March 2012.



be. Five mill would be a good price for a player whose best years are behind him so whatever we got on top of that is down to good business.

Hope it works out for Jose - we should not harbour anything more than gratitude toward him. Remember how good Saints have been in the development of him as a player also though it was a 2

way street and he has benefitted enormously from his progress from journeyman defender to International recognition and an income he could only have imagined on the day he arrived here.

Armchair champ

The really sad thing about Fontes move is that he has given up legend status for a few extra

bob, it begs the question how much is enough. what can you buy for 60 grand a week that you can't buy for 50 grand a week.

kivetonsaint

I always admired Fonte for the way he embraced the role of captain of my football team, but his behaviour this season has left me as a fan feeling let down & disap-

pointed.

He obviously took lessons from Lallana in how to leave a sour taste in the mouths of the fans who have fed him, supported him in his time here & really admired him.

How wrong we were once again to think he actually cared a jot for the fans.

These players seem to forget without playing for a 'little club' called Southampton every week they would never have achieved playing for their national teams.

Fonte wouldn't have been a European championship winner without Saints & how does he reward us, by kicking us in the bol****ks. Sorry, but he is not the man I thought he was & if he thinks West Ham are a big big club he is more stupid than I thought.

The Inbetweeneer

Farewell, good luck. No bad feeling from me. £8m for a 33 year old is a cracking deal for us. Players, managers and owners come and go. The heart of the club is us fans and always will be. We might disagree with each other and hold very opposing views at time but it is and always will be our club first and foremost. Remember also that for every Saints fan wondering why a player leaves there are as many Celtic, FC Twente, Porto, Eindhoven, Salzburg and Lille fans who wonder the same about their top talent. It's a food chain really and we are closer to the top than the bottom.

exiledinyork

Puel has had ample opportunities to play Jose, and I believe if he had, we would now have more points, and possibly still be in Europe. Good luck, Jose, and thanks for all the good times.

Tony Robertson, Stranraer

2 and a half year deal with a chance to extend it for a further year. Guess 18 months looks poor in comparison. So West Ham's partnership in 3 and a half years will be Reid aged 32 and Fonte aged 36 and a half.

Dorssaints

"I moved to West Ham because I want to win trophies here", LOOOOOL.... Laughable off the shelf standard non sensical footballer comment, get a grip Jose surely you are better than that.

You moved there because a big club didn't want you and your money hungry idiot of an agent filled your head with tosh so he can coin in the commission.. Not hard to fool a footballer TBH..

JJB100

Continued on page 34

Five race meetings you can't miss next week

CONTENDERS, SET?

The Contenders Hurdle is shaping up into a key Champion Hurdle trial this year. Previous winners include Cheltenham heroes such as Binocular, Rooster Booster and even the great Sea Pigeon. The weather has decimated recent runnings, but hopefully that will not be the case this, as Christmas Hurdle winner Yanworth, Ascot hero Brain Power and dual Grade One victor Irving all in the mix for the two-mile heat.

FESTIVAL FRENZY

Expect some pretty chunky numbers as entries for the Grade One novice events at the Cheltenham Festival are revealed on Thursday. The Supreme, Neptune Investment Management and Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdles always draw plenty of contenders, with multiple entries also the name of the game. The JCB Triumph Hurdle also usually boasts a similarly weighty list but you could reasonably expect a bit of an ante-post betting shake-up as big-race plans really begin to take shape.

WETHERBY WATCH

Wetherby stages one of its biggest days of the year with the Towton Novices' Chase taking centre stage. The Grade Two affair was established in 1996 and has yielded some fair winners in the past, with the inaugural victor Mr Mulligan going on to take the Cheltenham Gold Cup the following season. Last year's victor Blaklion went on to create a surprise by landing the RSA Chase at Cheltenham, so make a note of the winner for future reference.

PACKING A PUNCH

The Tied Cottage Chase at Punchestown has been used more than once as a Champion Chase proving ground and the brilliant Douvan is the star attraction as he continues building towards Cheltenham. Willie Mullins immediately pinpointed this Grade Two affair as the likely prep run for his star two-miler, who is expected to dominate come the Wednesday of the Festival. Given the likes of Moscow Flyer and Sizing Europe feature on the roll of honour, it looks an obvious stopping off point on the way to Prestbury Park.

SCILLY TEST

Buveur D'Air is set to face his moment of truth in the Betfred TV Scilly Isles Novices' Chase at Sandown. Nicky Henderson's runner is among the leading lights for the JLT Novices' Chase at the Festival and this Grade One test could prove whether or not he is on course for the Festival event. Stablemate Altior looks likely to dominate the two-mile division this term so Henderson will be eager to see Buveur D'Air prove his mettle over this two-and-a-half-mile trip so he can spread his riches around the Festival features.

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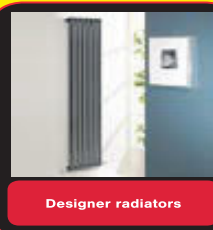
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SAINTS FIXTURES 2016/17



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
August																						
Sat 13	Watford (h)	D 1-1	Forster	Cedric+	Targett	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	Davis	= W-Prowse	*Long	Tadic	Redmond 1	+Pied	=Højbjerg	*Austin						
Fri 19	Man Utd (a)	L 1-2	Forster	Cedric	Targett	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu*	Højbjerg	Davis=	Austin	Long+	Redmond	+Rodriguez	=Austin	*Clasie						
Sat 27	Sunderland (h)	D1-1	Forster	Cedric	Targett	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Højbjerg*	Davis	Austin=	Tadic+	Redmond	+Long	=Rodriguez	*W-Prowse						
September																						
Sat 10	Arsenal (a)	L 1-2	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie*	Tadic1=	Rodriguez+	Redmond	+Long	= W-Prowse	*Højbjerg						
Thurs 15	Sp Prague (Eur Lge) (h)	W 3-0	Forster	Martina	Targett	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu=	W-Prowse	Højbjerg	Tadic*	Austin 2+	Long	+Rodriguez1	= Davis	*Redmond						
Sun 18	Swansea (h)	W 1-0	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie*	Tadic=	Long+	Redmond	+Højbjerg	=Martina	*Austin1						
Wed 21	C Palace (Lge Cup, H)	W 2-0	McCarthy	Martina	Targett	Yoshida	Fonte	W-Prowse	Reed	Clasie	Hesketh1*	Austin1+	Long=	+Redmond	=Tadic	*Højbjerg						
Sun 25	West Ham (a)	W 3-0	Forster	Soares+	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Højbjerg	Tadic1*	Austin1=	Redmond	+Martina	=Long	*W-Prowse 1						
Thurs 29	Hapoel (Europa Lge) (a)	D 0-0	Forster	Martina	Targett	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	W-Prowse	Clasie	Hesketh+	Long	Redmond=	+Tadic	= Højbjerg							
October																						
Sun 2	Leicester (a)	D 0-0	Forster	Soares+	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Højbjerg	Tadic*	Austin=	Redmond	+ Martina	=W-Prowse	*Long						
Sun 16	Burnley (h)	W 3-1	Forster	Martina	Targett+	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie	Tadic	Austin2=	Redmond1*	+McQueen	=Rodriguez	*W-Pr						
Thurs 20	Inter (Europa Lge, a)	L 0-1	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	W-Pr	Højbjerg	Tadic*	Long+	Rodriguez=	+Austin	=Davis	*Boufal						
Sun 23	Man City (a)	D 1-1	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie+	Tadic*	Austin=	Redmond1	+Højbjerg	=W-Prowse	* Boufal						
Wed 26	Sunderland (Lge Cup, h)	W 1-0	McCarthy	Stephens	McQueen	Yoshida	Fonte	Reed +	W-Prowse	Boufal1	Isgrrove=	Højbjerg	Rodriguez*	+Clasie	=Redmond							
Sun 30	Chelsea (h)	L 0-2	Forster	Martina	Bertrand+	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie*	Tadic=	Austin	Redmond	+McQueen	=Højbjerg	*Boufal						
November																						
Thurs 3	Inter (Europa Lge) (h)	W 2-1	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk1	Yoshida	Romeu	W-Prowse	Højbjerg	Tadic+	Rodriguez=	Redmond	+Davis	=Austin							
Sat 6	Hull (a)	L 1-2	Forster	Yoshida	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie=	Tadic+	Austin1	Redmond*	+Boufal	=Rodriguez	*JWP						
Sat 19	Liverpool (h)	D 0-0	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Højbjerg+	Boufal=	Austin*	Redmond	+ Reed	=Long	*Rodriguez						
Thur 24	Sp Prague (Eur Lge, a)	L 0-1	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Clasie+	W-Prowse	Højbjerg=	Long	Rodriguez*	Redmond	+Austin	=Boufal	*Romeu						
Sun 27	Everton (h)	W 1-0	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	W-Prowse	Højbjerg	Sims+	Austin1=	Redmond*	+McQueen	=Long	*Clasie						
Wed 30	Arsenal (League Cup, a)	W 2-0	Forster	Martina	Bertrand1	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Clasie1	Davis	Reed+	Boufal=	Long	McQueen	+Højbjerg	=Sims							
December																						
Sat 3	Crystal Palace (a)	L 0-3	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	W-Prowse	Højbjerg+	Boufal =	Austin*	Redmond	+Sims	=Long	*McQueen						
Thurs 8	Hapoel (Europa Lge, h)	D1-1	Forster	Cedric	Bernard	Van Dijk1	Yoshida	Romeu	Davis	Højbjerg+	Sims*	Austin=	Redmond	+ W-Prowse	=Long	*Tadic						
Sun 11	Middlesbrough (h)	W 1-0	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	W-Prowse	Clasie+	Boufal1=	Rodriguez	Tadic*	+Long	=Davis	*Redmond						
Wed 14	Stoke (a)	D 0-0	Forster	Martina*	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	W-Prowse	Davis	Boufal	Long+	Redmond=	+Rodriguez	=Tadic	*McQueen						
Sun 18	Bournemouth (a)	W 3-1	Forster	Soares	Bertrand1	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Reed+	Højbjerg	Clasie	Boufal*	Rodriguez2=	Redmond	+Davis	= Long	* Tadic						
Wed 28	Tottenham (h)	L 1-4	Forster	Soares	Bertrand	Van Dijk1	Fonte	Romeu	W-Prowse	Davis+	Boufal=	Rodriguez*	Redmond	+Long	= Højbjerg	*Tadic						
Sat 31	West Brom (h)	L 1-2	Forster	Martina+	McQueen	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	Højbjerg=	Davis	Boufal	Long1	Tadic*	+W-Prowse	=Rodriguez	*Sims						
January																						
Mon 2	Everton (a)	L 0-3	Forster	Soares+	McQueen	Yoshida	Fonte	Romeu	J W-Prowse	Clasie=	Tadic*	Rodriguez	Redmond	+Stephens	=Long	*Boufal						
Sat 7	Norwich (FAC, a)	D 2-2	Lewis	Stephens	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Reed+	J W-Prowse	Højbjerg	Tadic	Long=	Sims*	+Romeu	=Rodriguez	*Redmond						
Wed 11	Liverpool (LC, h)	W 1-0	Forster	Soares	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	Clasie=	Davis+	Tadic	Rodriguez*	Redmond1	+W-Prowse	=Højbjerg	*Long						
Sat 14	Burnley (a)	L 0-1	Forster	Soares	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	J W-Prowse	Højbjerg	Tadic+	Long	Redmond=	+Rodriguez	=Sims							
Wed 18	Norwich (FAC, h)	W 1-0	Lewis	Martina	McQueen	Stephens	Yoshida	Reed+	J W-Prowse	Clasie	Sims	Long1	Rodriguez=	+Romeu	=Redmond							
Sat 21	Leicester (h)	W 3-0	Forster	Soares	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Yoshida+	Romeu	J W-Prowse1	Højbjerg=	Tadic1	Rodriguez1*	Redmond	+Stephens	=Clasie	*Long						
Wed 25	Liverpool (LC, a)	W 1-0	Forster	Soares	Bertrand	Stephens	Yoshida	Romeu	J W-Prowse=	Davis	Tadic	Rodriguez+	Redmond*	+Long	=Højbjerg	*Sims						
Sat 28	Arsenal (FAC)	(h)																				
Tues 31	Swansea	(a)																				
February																						
Sat 4	West Ham	(h)	AUGUST	29 Middlesbrough (A)				L 0-2	JANUARY				11 West Ham United (H)									
Sat 11	Sunderland	(a)	13 Man United (H)	L 1-3		NOVEMBER				2 Arsenal (H)				D 3-3		18 Swansea City (H)						
Sun 26	Man Utd (LC final)	(n)	20 West Ham United (A)	L 0-1						7 Millwall (FAC, A)				L 0-3		APRIL						
March			27 Crystal Palace (A)	D1-1						14 Hull City (A)				L 1-3								
Sat 4	Watford	(a)	SEPTEMBER				5 Sunderland (H)				L 1-2		21 Watford (H)				D 2-2					
Sat 11	Man Utd	(h)	10 West Bromwich (H)				W 1-0		27 Arsenal (A)				L 1-3		1 Southampton (A)							
Sat 18	Tottenham	(a)	17 Manchester City (A)				L 0-4						31 Crystal Palace				(H)					
April			20 Preston (H, League Cup)				L 2-3		DECEMBER				FEBRUARY				15 Tottenham (A)					
Sat 1	Bournemouth	(h)	24 Everton (H)				W 1-0										22 Middlesbrough (H)					
Wed 5	Crystal Palace	(h)													29 Sunderland (A)							
Sat 8	West Brom	(a)									4 Liverpool (H)				W 4-3		4 Everton (A)					
Sat 15	Man City	(h)									10 Burnley (A)				L 2-3		11 Manchester City (H)					
Sat 22	Chelsea	(a)									13 Leicester City (H)				W 1-0		25 West Bromwich (A)					
Sat 29	Hull	(h)									18 Southampton (H)				L 1-3							
May			1 Watford (A)				D 2-2		26 Chelsea (A)				L 0-3		MARCH							
Sat 6	Liverpool	(a)	15 Hull City (H)				W 6-1		31 Swansea City (A)				W 3-0		4 Manchester United (A)							
Sat 13	Middlesbrough	(a)	22 Tottenham (H)				D 0-0										21 Leicester City (A)					
Sun 21	Stoke	(h)																				



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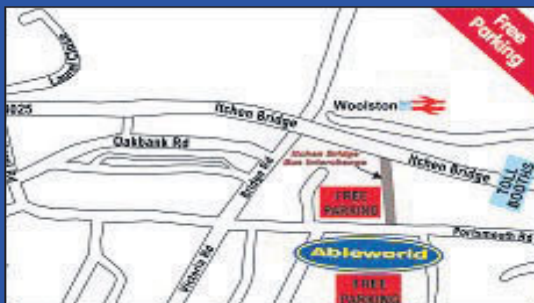
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'Good luck to him'

To those who are criticising him or his move, enough already! He did a great service as captain for the club and should be remembered for that. He is one of the saints legends. His move to west ham is irrelevant. After the euros and interest from man u him and his agent looked for a move. More money, end of career, so why not? Good luck to him.

all_over_saints

Saints fans have also been commenting on Fonte's departure on the Daily Echo's Facebook page ...

He's acted like a spoiled little child who forgot who made him after he won the euros. He thought at the age of 33 and with a European winners medal that all the 'big teams' would come a knocking and he could squeeze some more money out of the last couple years of his career. But instead throwing the toys out of the pram made him look like a sad little boy and if anything took a downwards step to West ham. He's gone from playing next to van dijck to Winstone Reid in a club where we (in my opinion) thought the world of him as a player and a great captain. He could've retired up there with the same status as Benali.

He was with us through everything and thought he was bigger than the club because of some silverware. No man is bigger than the club.

Joe Olive

Fair play fonte you've gave us so many fond memories and wish you well!!!

Some Southampton fans are so fickle, calling him all the names under the sun, but maybe you should look deeper!! In the board, yes maybe we did get a good return on an ageing player but I bet none of the funds gets spent on a replacement, just like nothing got spent on a adequate replacement for mane, pelle and Wanyama.

I know we were a soft touch to the top 6 clubs in the league, which were our main rivals at the time but now we are bowing to the like of West Ham!

It's obvious if players leave for teams like this that our ambition levels have dropped to be a team fighting relegation season after season or a team that's happy to just plod along every year for mid table!

Michael Pancaldi

From champs to chumps in a year

By Tom White

REIGNING Premier League champions Leicester continue to struggle, with Sunday's 3-0 defeat at Saints leaving them firmly in the relegation battle.

Here, the Sports Pink compares their plight to previous champions who struggled to back it up.

LEICESTER, 2016-17

The Foxes stunned world football when they rampaged to the title last season - Jamie Vardy scored 24 goals, including netting in a record 11 consecutive top-flight games, Riyad Mahrez was PFA player of the year and they lost only three games.

This season they matched that tally of defeats by September 24, losing three of their first six, while Vardy, Mahrez and captain Wes Morgan are among several players notably out of form. They lie 15th in the table, five points above the relegation zone, and are on course to finish the season with a nerve-jangling tally of 37 points.

CHELSEA, 2015-16

We do not have to go back far to find precedent for the reigning Premier League champions under-performing.

Chelsea sealed the 2015 title with three games to spare, adding the League Cup for good measure despite the pre-season departures of club favourites Frank Lampard and Ashley Cole.

Like Leicester, they saw their centre-forward and key playmaker lead them to the title before struggling the following season - Diego Costa a sulky and indisciplined presence while Eden Hazard failed to recapture his PFA player of the year form as the Blues bizarrely slumped to 10th place. With both back on form this season, they are on course to regain the title - though speculation persists over the future of Costa.

MAN CITY, 1937-38

Trust City to find themselves in this list. A year after winning the league in swashbuckling fashion, scoring 107 goals in 42 games, they contrived to be relegated after winning just two away games all season and finishing second-bottom above West Brom. The team contained goalkeeper Frank Swift, who later died in the Mu-



James Ward-Prowse, above, celebrates scoring against Leicester at St Mary's.



Action from Saints' 3-0 home win over fading champions Leicester.

nich air disaster while working as a journalist, and City's all-time record scorer Eric Brook.

Remarkably, they went down as the division's top scorers with 80 goals, one more than Everton and three more than champions Arsenal - even while conceding 77, they still had a positive goal difference (or, under the system in use at the time, a goal average above one).

They were also only 16 points behind the Gunners, and five off 10th-placed Chelsea, in a remarkably tightly-packed table - Leices-

ter could be 16 points behind table-topping Chelsea now, after just 22 games, and still be seventh.

LEEDS, 1992-93

The West Yorkshire side won the title in the last season of the old First Division under Howard Wilkinson's management, Lee Chapman and Rod Wallace with the goals while a midfield of Gordon Strachan, David Batty, Gary McAllister and Gary Speed proved influential as they were unbeaten at home.

With the advent of the Premier

League and the television money involved, though, Leeds were left behind - one of several high-profile transfers saw eventual champions Manchester United sign Eric Cantona from the Elland Road side.

Leeds battled relegation, eventually finishing two points and three places clear of the drop zone in 17th. Like Leicester so far this season, they failed to win a single away game. Relegation eventually came in 2004 and continued financial mismanagement saw them later drop to League One, but they are now in contention for promotion back to the top flight.

BLACKBURN, 1995-96

Rovers made steady progress before winning the 1995 title, thanks largely to the goals of former Saints youngster Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton. With Shearer having departed for hometown club Newcastle, they missed out on the European places altogether the following season, finishing seventh.

While their chances of a repeat title were effectively scuppered by four defeats in their first six games, it is their Champions League failure that lives on in the memory - team-mates Batty and Graeme Le Saux coming to blows in the away game against Spartak Moscow as Rovers finished bottom of a weak Group B.

PINK

Guide to the Six Nations teams

The Sports Pink's guide to the Six Nations rugby tournament

England

Coach: Eddie Jones – the Australian who has masterminded an about-turn in fortunes with 13 wins from 13 games in his stewardship.

Captain: Dylan Hartley – the combustible Northampton hooker is back from yet another ban.

Key player: Maro Itoje – the Saracens forward whose athleticism has become integral to England.

Key stat: Winners of 14 successive games.

Key game: Ireland in Dublin on March 18 is a potential Grand Slam decider.

Wales

Coach: Rob Howley – interim head coach as Warren Gatland focuses on the Lions.

Captain: Alun Wyn Jones – the talismanic lock is skipper and will look to lead from the front.

Key player: Sam Warburton – if he makes the team, could be rejuvenated by the freedom of being one of the boys.

Key stat: Wales won the 2013 tournament when Howley was interim coach, clinching victory with a 30-3 win over England.

Key game: Difficult to look beyond England's visit to Cardiff in round two, on February 11.

Scotland

Coach: Vern Cotter – the Kiwi will want a strong final tournament before he hands over to Gregor Townsend.

Captain: Greig Laidlaw – the beating heart of the Scotland team.

Key player: Finn Russell – the fly-half can inspire Scotland with moments of magic.

Key stat: Still no Six Nations title, having won the final Five Nations in 1999.

Key game: Ireland on February 4 in the opener could set the tone for Scotland's championship.

Ireland

Coach: Joe Schmidt – the Kiwi will not be happy with anything less than the Grand Slam.

Captain: Rory Best – the Ulster hooker could stake a claim to lead the Lions.

Key player: Johnny Sexton – the fly-half is so important to Ireland and the Lions, fitness permitting.

Key stat: Best's only two wins in seven attempts as a Six Nations captain have been in the last two games.

Key game: If Ireland can nego-



Maro Itoje's athleticism has helped England on their amazing run of 14 straight successes.



Sam Warburton, left, and Eddie Jones, right.



tiate the early rounds, a Grand Slam decider with England beckons.

France

Coach: Guy Noves – the Toulouse great is still to make a lasting impression with Les Bleus.

Captain: Guilhem Guirado – the Toulon man is a modern-style hooker who will lead from the front.

Key player: Louis Picamoles – the Northampton back-rower can

give France momentum with his ball carrying.

Key stat: France have lost 10 of 15 away games in the last six editions.

Key game: A home victory over Scotland in round two is a must if Les Bleus are going to avoid a minor places scrap.

Italy

Coach: Conor O'Shea – the former Harlequins coach is hoping to make an impact with the un-

derdogs.

Captain: Sergio Parisse – the colossal number eight is skipper in his 14th championship.

Key player: Leonardo Ghiraldini – Parisse cannot do it all by himself and hooker Ghiraldini is a key component of the pack.

Key stat: The Azzurri have won just three of 12 Six Nations matches at the Stadio Olimpico since moving there from the Stadio Flaminio in 2012.

Key game: Wales at home in the opening game on February 5 will provide a barometer of Italy's prospects.

The 121-cap veteran number eight remains Italy's most important player, however obvious a selection. No team in the Six Nations turns to their captain for inspiration as often as Italy with Parisse. The 33-year-old might not be quite the force of yesteryear, but if fully fit can still threaten through his rare mixture of blunt force and rapier skills. New Italy coach Conor O'Shea will need Parisse at his best for the Azzurri to stamp any authority on proceedings.

Leap In

A Woman, Some Waves and a Will to Swim
By Alexandra Heminsley

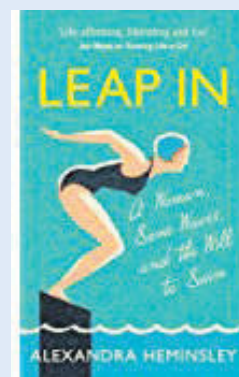
Sportsbookofthethmonth.
com price: £9.09, saving
£3.90 on rrp

'Candid, funny and inspiring' was how Alexandra Heminsley's 2014 sporty bestseller, *Running Like a Girl*, was described by one critic, a synopsis with which it's difficult to argue.

But could she attract rave reviews again, this time away from dry land, while conquering a fear of swimming in the sea with *Leap In*?

Time will tell, but your reviewer would suggest the plaudits will arrive faster than an incoming tide.

Perhaps the only peculiar aspect of *Leap In* comes towards the end when readers are treated to an unexpected history of swimming. Here we



discover that the Tudors used pig's intestines as armbands and that a large number of suffragettes were swimmers, though swimming as a pastime is a comparatively modern phenomenon.

Leap In reminded me of Tim Moore's cycling memoirs. Yes, they're funny, well-observed tomes, but they're also underpinned by the often Herculean effort of an ordinary guy taking on a major sporting challenge.

Heminsley achieves something similar as she tackles a fear of open sea swimming, rapidly progressing to several other impressive challenges.

Anyone having second thoughts about their new year resolution to 'get fit' should read *Leap In* because they're guaranteed to stick with the undertaking they made on 1st January after reading a candid, funny and inspiring book.

PINK

Luis' life and crimes ...

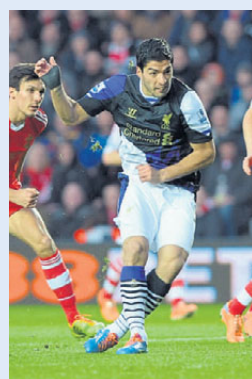
Barcelona striker Luis Suarez celebrated his 30th birthday this week. The Uruguay international has been dogged by controversy throughout his glittering career and here the Sports Pink looks at the incidents.

HANDBALL

Suarez was sent off for using his hands to stop a header on the goal line with the score at 1-1 in extra-time of their World Cup quarter-final against Ghana. The African side missed the resulting penalty and went on to lose on spot-kicks.

BITINNG, 2010

During Ajax's league match against PSV Eindhoven Suarez bit opponent Otman Bakkal.



Luis Suarez

He was banned for seven matches.

ABUSE, 2011

After the goalless draw with Manchester United Suarez, now a Liverpool player, was accused by Patrice Evra of racially abusing him. Suarez was banned for eight matches and fined £40,000.

BITING, 2013

In a tussle with Branislav Ivanovic Suarez was seen on television cameras appearing to bite the Chelsea defender. Her was banned for 10 matches.

BITING, 2014

Suarez bit defender Giorgio Chiellini on his right shoulder during a World Cup tie, and FIFA handed him a nine-match international suspension, a four-month ban from all competitive football and a £66,000 fine.

The controversial Luis Suarez in numbers



Luis Suarez

Barcelona striker Luis Suarez celebrated his 30th birthday on January 24. Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the numbers associated with his career.

14

Age he joined the youth team of Nacional, his first professional club.

800,000

The amount in euros that Dutch club Groningen paid to take him to the Eredivisie in 2006.

31

Number of league goals scored in 33 matches as Liverpool narrowly missed out on a long-awaited title in 2014.

45

The total number of matches missed (club and international) for bans following three biting incidents and one of racial abuse.

47

Total of international goals for

Uruguay, making him the country's all-time top scorer.

40

League goals in the 2015-16 season which saw him win LaLiga's Pichichi trophy, ending a six-year run in which Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi had finished top.

120

The number of matches it took Suarez to reach 100 goals for Barcelona, ahead of the likes of Messi, Samuel Eto'o and Rivaldo.

Batting is up with the world's best

England's victory at Eden Gardens last weekend saw them claim their first win over India this winter, leaving the one-day international series scoreline 2-1 to the hosts.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five points to take away from the games.

ENGLAND'S BATTING IS UP WITH THE BEST

The shift in England's limited-overs batting since the 2015 World Cup has been a joy to watch and, despite defeat, this series has been another example of the comfort with which they now pursue big totals.

Racking up 350 in Pune and 366 in Cuttack may not have been enough to see off the hosts on benign pitches with short boundaries but no England team has ever scored more against India.

Even better was their 321 in a winning cause at Eden Gardens on a tricky, seam-friendly strip.

England's trump card in this summer's Champions Trophy is their increasingly consistent firepower.

RASHID STILL A RIDDLE

Most pundits would have expected leg-spinner Adil Rashid to play all three matches in Indian conditions, leading the tourists' hunt for wickets.

Instead he managed just five inconsistent overs in the opener before being dropped for the last two.

The feeling remains the Yorkshireman is a confidence player prone to troughs of form and the hints were there with two loose



England captain Eoin Morgan hits a six at Eden Gardens.

showings in the warm-up matches.

At his best he lends the attack mystery and variation and careful consideration must be given on how best to manage him.

MORGAN HAS SETTLED

ries.

But he has been welcomed back wholeheartedly by the squad, who appear to value his presence more than many armchair critics, and his valiant century in pursuit of a huge target in the second ODI confirmed he can still cut it in a rapidly evolving format.

ROOM FOR A BOLTER

Fitness and reasonable form allowing, England probably know around 13 of their first-choice 15 for the Champions Trophy.

The area most open to new arrivals is the bowling attack, with only Chris Woakes really looking entirely on top of his game and established among the seam unit.

David Willey, Jake Ball and Liam Plunkett are the men in possession but others have a chance to break in, with Stuart Broad eyeing a white-ball recall, Mark Wood a likely selection if fully fit and Chris Jordan on the edges of the squad.

INDIA MEAN BUSINESS

A lot of blocks are falling into place for India's one-day team as they eye another limited-overs trophy this summer.

Virat Kohli has finally assumed the captaincy from Mahendra Singh Dhoni and his energetic, sharply focused brand of leadership could come into its own at tournament time.

Dhoni and fellow veteran Yuvraj Singh proved with their 256-run stand in Cuttack they are still match-winners and the likes of Kedar Jadhav, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya all played key roles when required.

PINK



Johanna Konta

The rise and rise of Johanna Konta

Johanna Konta may have been beaten by Serena Williams in the Australian Open but her run to the quarter-finals and top-10 seeding demonstrated again her standing in tennis.

Here, the Sports Pink reflects on the 25-year-old's rapid rise.

Ranking progression

Year-end ranking:

2011 - 305

2012 - 153

2013 - 112

2014 - 150

2015 - 47

2016 - 10

Current - 9

Australian Open

2013 - Second qualifying round

2014 - Second qualifying round

2015 - First qualifying round

2016 - Semi-final

2017 - Quarter-final

Grand slam

Best performance:

Australian Open: Semi-final,

2016

French Open: Last 128, 2015 and

2016

Wimbledon: Last 64, 2016

US Open: Last 16, 2012, 2015 and

2016

Season to date

Shenzhen, China, Jan 1-7: Semi-final

Sydney, Australia, Jan 8-13: Winner

Win-loss record: 12-2

Aces/double faults: 62/33

Wit and wisdom of F1's Ecclestone

Bernie Ecclestone has been a colourful and often controversial character in the world of Formula One, having ruled over the sport for four decades.

He will no longer be the puppet-master after Liberty Media completed their takeover of F1.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the 86-year-old's most memorable quotes.

"People want to build new circuits around the world and they say: 'We'll come to Silverstone and have a look how it's done', and I tell them to stay away" - *Ecclestone did not want Britain's F1 home to become the blueprint for new circuits.*

"I mean it when I say that Lewis is the best champion we have ever had. Look at the job Lewis does outside of the track. He goes on talk shows, red carpets, he carries the Formula 1 brand everywhere in the world. For Formula 1 and for me as a promoter, there is no one better" - *Ecclestone always had plenty of praise for three-time champion Lewis Hamilton.*

"He's a first-class person. I always supported him. He could control Europe or America; he is able to deal with it. But I think he is very busy. Let him finish what he's doing and then we'll see" - *a big fan of Russian president Vladimir Putin, the pair were close during the inaugural running of the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi in 2014.*

"If you say 'Good morning' in America and it's five past 12, you end up with a lawsuit." - *Ecclestone's view on America's law-makers.*



Bernie Ecclestone.

"I leave at half-time; by then you can see which way it's going. If you ask me to name five of our team, I couldn't. There's that guy who scores goals - (Adel) Taarabt. (Wayne) Routledge I've heard of. All bloody nice guys but I don't mix with them so I don't know them well. I don't go in the dressing room. They can walk out of the showers and I feel I've got an inferiority complex" - *about the QPR players who were at Loftus Road during his time as co-owner of QPR.*

"The morning after I die. And the first 12 copies go to the Inland Revenue" - *a tongue-in-cheek answer when he was asked when he would be publishing his autobiography.*

"You know, I've got one of these wonderful ideas that women should all be dressed in white like all the other domestic appliances" - *Ecclestone gave a controversial opinion on ladies' fashion, and status, when discussing Danica Patrick's place in the Indy 500 race in 2005.*

"I had to do something that upset me. I had to give her away. I'd rather have sold her" - *money was on Ecclestone's mind even on daughter Tamara's wedding day.*

"I'm proud of the business that I built over the last 40 years and all that I have achieved with Formula 1, and would like to thank all of the promoters, teams, sponsors and television companies that I have worked with." - *Ecclestone's message after Liberty Media's takeover was completed.*

So, who is Chase?

Chase Carey was appointed as chief executive of Formula One following Liberty Media's takeover of the sport.

The American has already been operating as the sport's chairman but replaces Bernie Ecclestone as a figurehead.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things you may not know about the new face of F1.

1. He was a former rugby player

Carey holds a master's degree from Harvard University but before that he received a bachelor's degree from Colgate University - where he was also a member of the rugby team.

2. He sports some serious facial hair for a reason

Carey keeps a distinctive handlebar moustache, reportedly to hide a scar he received after a car accident on the way to a college football game.

3. He is a close friend of Rupert Murdoch

The American has worked closely with media mogul Rupert Murdoch since 1988 and Murdoch labelled him as "his partner" in 2012.

4. It is Charles, not Chase

Although he prefers to go by the name Chase, Carey's legal paperwork states his name as Charles G. Carey.

5. He can pull off off big-money sports deals

Carey played a key role in brokering a deal between Fox Network and the NFL worth over \$1.5 billion, not bad for a man who reportedly enjoys hamburger and fries as an executive lunch.

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted ‘Which? Trusted Trader’ status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company

policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. ‘Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

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surrounding areas and manager Justin Friel agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. ‘The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.’

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Susan's Story

I now enjoy going out with my family and friends and better still, I laugh!

I was the woman who kept in the background, hiding myself away from people. I was the one who talked to others with one hand across my lower face, I always felt embarrassed eating out so would make excuses and not go. I became introverted with very little confidence in myself.

The Same Day Teeth team have put sunshine into my everyday life. I was always afraid of the dentist because of a few horrendous treatments in my earlier days. This was so different. They are not only completely professional, but gentle, kind and most importantly honest, explaining each treatment before the event.

I cannot thank them enough, they have changed my life.



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PINK

RESULTS

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Cup Fourth Round

Blackburn2	Blackpool0
Galagher 9	
Bennett 22	Att 9,327
HT 2-0	
Burnley2	Bristol C0
Vokes 45	
Dafour 68	Att 14,921
HT 1-0	
Chelsea4	Brentford0
Willian 14	
Pedro 21	
Ivanovic 69	
Batistuta 81 pen	Att 41,042
HT 2-0	
Crystal P0	Man City3
	Sterling 43
	Sane 71
	Toure 90
	Att 13,979
HT 0-1	
Lincoln City3	Brighton1
Power 57 pen	Towell 24
Tomot 62 og	
Rabson 85	Att 9,469
HT 0-1	
Liverpool1	Wolves2
Crig 86	Quarner 42
HT 2-0	
Middlesbro1	Acc Stanley0
Downing 69	Sheamman 1
HT 0-0	Att 24,400
Oxford Utd.3	Newcastle0
Hemmings 46	
Nelson 79	Att 11,810
Martinez 87	
HT 0-0	
Rochdale0	Huddersfield4
	Brown 66 pen
	Hefele 72.84
	Att 7,431
HT 0-1	
SAINTSL	ArsenalL
HT 1-1	
Tottenham Hotspur4	Wycombe3
Son 60.90	Hayes 23.36 pen
Janssen 64 pen	Thompson 83
All 89	Att 31,440
HT 0-2	

SkyBet Championship

Norwich2	Birmingham0
Jones 15	
Klose 43	Att 25,678
HT 2-0	
Preston North End1	Ipswich1
Hugh 89	Lawrence 16
HT 0-1	Att 10,656
Q.P.R.1	Burton Albion2
Washington 63	Murphy 11
HT 0-1	Dyer 52
Reading2	Cardiff1
Swift 42	Ralls 45 pen
Kernaghan 60	Att 18,558
HT 1-1	
Rotherham0	Barnsley1
HT 0-0	A Armstrong 70
	Att 11,015

SkyBet League One

Bolton1	Charlton2
Cough 13	Bauer 23
HT 1-2	Byrne 45
Bristol R0	Swindon0
Boon 29	Att 10,557
HT 1-0	
Bury3	Walsall3
Vaughan 22	Ozumer 71
Brown 45	McCarthy 76.79
Soares 90	Att 3,280
HT 2-0	
Fleetwood Town1	Southend1
Ball 90	Wardlaw 37
HT 0-1	Att 2,675
Gillingham1	Shrewsbury1
Oshlaja 45	Rodman 63
HT 1-0	Att 5,316
Northampton3	Coventry0
K Anderson 53.64.76	
HT 0-0	Att 7,543
Oldham1	Bradford2
Wilson 44	Vincelot 14
HT 1-1	McArdle 76
	Att 6,516

SkyBet League Two

Carlisle1	Barnet1
Wyke 29	Akande 77 pen
HT 1-0	Att 4,547
Crewe0	Cheltenham0
HT 0-0	Att 5,373
Luton2	Cambridge0
Vassell 33	
Cook 82 pen	Att 8,917
HT 1-0	
Mansfield2	Leyton O0
Whiteman 48	
Rose 56	Att 3,925
HT 0-0	
Newport County3	Hartlepool1
Williams 56	Buller 71
HT 1-0	Att 2,271
Notts Cnty2	Crawley1
Audley 75	Collins 86
Forde 90	Att 5,023
HT 0-0	
POMPEY0	Exeter1
HT 0-0	Whelan 77
Stevenage2	Grimsby0
Schumacher 4	
McKneil 61	Att 3,394
HT 1-0	
Yeovil0	Doncaster3
HT 0-0	Baudry 31
	Marguez 35.79
	Att 3,627

SkyBet League One

Bolton1	Charlton2
Cough 13	Bauer 23
HT 1-2	Byrne 45
Bristol R0	Swindon0
Boon 29	Att 10,557
HT 1-0	
Bury3	Walsall3
Vaughan 22	Ozumer 71
Brown 45	McCarthy 76.79
Soares 90	Att 3,280
HT 2-0	
Fleetwood Town1	Southend1
Ball 90	Wardlaw 37
HT 0-1	Att 2,675
Gillingham1	Shrewsbury1
Oshlaja 45	Rodman 63
HT 1-0	Att 5,316
Northampton3	Coventry0
K Anderson 53.64.76	
HT 0-0	Att 7,543
Oldham1	Bradford2
Wilson 44	Vincelot 14
HT 1-1	McArdle 76
	Att 6,516

Peterboro0	M K Dons4
	Barnes 59
	Agard 71
	Aneke 74.83
	Att 6,617
HT 0-0	
Scunthorpe3	Port Vale2
Morris 49 pen	Toney 62
Hopper 71	Walker 38
HT 0-1	Hooper 59
	Att 4,442

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Scunthorpe	28	9	5	0	33	12
Sheff Utd	29	10	2	3	23	12
Bolton	27	9	3	23	12	6
Fleetwood T	29	9	5	1	26	14
Bradford	29	6	9	0	22	10
Rochdale	27	10	1	3	28	13
Southend	27	10	1	3	28	13
Toures 90	Att 13,979					
Bristol R	29	9	3	30	19	3
Peterboro	28	5	5	4	24	19
Millwall	27	7	3	32	22	4
Charlton	27	5	5	3	18	10
Walsall	28	6	4	4	24	21
Wimbledon	27	5	4	4	28	18
Oxford Utd	27	6	4	3	16	11
M K Dons	27	3	4	7	19	26
Northampton	29	5	2	7	23	20
Gillingham	28	5	5	3	17	13
Port Vale	27	7	4	3	23	17
Shrewsbury	29	5	3	6	14	16
Swindon	29	5	3	6	14	16
Bury	29	5	1	8	26	27
Chesterfield	28	6	3	5	18	19
Oldham	28	3	6	4	8	13
Coventry	28	3	6	4	13	13

SkyBet League Two

Carlisle1	Barnet1
Wyke 29	Akande 77 pen
HT 1-0	Att 4,547
Crewe0	Cheltenham0
HT 0-0	Att 5,373
Luton2	Cambridge0
Vassell 33	
Cook 82 pen	Att 8,917
HT 1-0	
Mansfield2	Leyton O0
Whiteman 48	
Rose 56	Att 3,925
HT 0-0	
Newport County3	Hartlepool1
Williams 56	Buller 71
HT 1-0	Att 2,271
Notts Cnty2	Crawley1
Audley 75	Collins 86
Forde 90	Att 5,023
HT 0-0	
POMPEY0	Exeter1
HT 0-0	Whelan 77
Stevenage2	Grimsby0
Schumacher 4	
McKneil 61	Att 3,394
HT 1-0	
Yeovil0	Doncaster3
HT 0-0	Baudry 31
	Marguez 35.79
	Att 3,627

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Doncaster	28	11	3	0	29	12
Plymouth	26	8	3	25	19	9
Carlisle	28	8	5	1	27	17
Luton	27	6	4	3	21	14
POMPEY	27	7	2	4	25	12
Wycombe	26	8	3	2	19	10
Exeter	27	3	2	7	12	13
Barnet	28	4	6	4	16	18
Colchester	27	7	3	2	25	16
Mansfield	28	6	5	4	17	10
Cambridge	27	5	3	6	18	16
Grimsby	28	5	3	6	17	18
Blackpool	26	5	4	3	22	13
Stevenage	28	5	1	8	26	26
Crawley	26	7	3	2	17	11
Yeovil	27	6	3	5	16	13
Morecambe	25	4	1	8	15	25
Hartlepool	28	4	5	16	19	3
Acc Stanley	26	3	6	5	14	16
Notts Cnty	28	2	5	8	13	22
Cheltenham	27	3	5	7	17	21
Leyton O	27	3	1	10	12	20
Newport Co	27	2	4	7	18	25

Ladbrokes Scottish Prem

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	21	10	0	0	27	4
Rangers	22	7	3	1	16	6
Aberdeen	21	6	3	1	19	6
Hearts	21	6	2	2	23	8
St Johnstn	22	4	3	4	16	14
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Ross Cnty	22	3	4	4	14	20
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
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Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Partick	22	2	4	5	12	16
Kilmarnock	22	3	4	4	12	24
Dundee	22	3	4	4	14	24
Motherwell	21	3	2	6	16	20
Hamilton	22	2	5	4	11	15
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	18
Inverness CT	22	2	5	4	16	1